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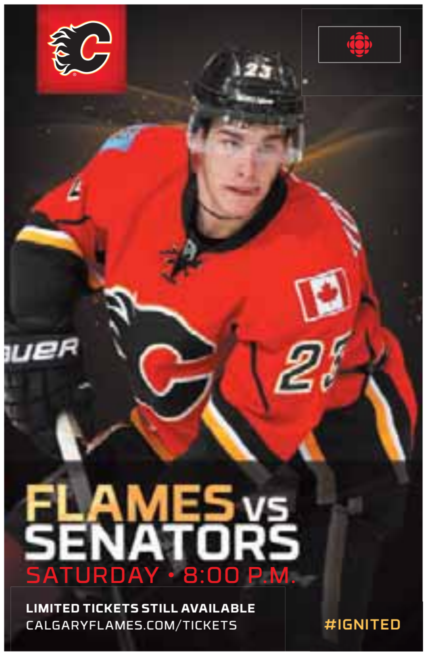
DID THE FUNNY GO FLAT AFTER 20 YEARS? DUMB AND DUMBER TO MAY GO THE WAY OF OTHER DELAYED SEQUELS PAGE 35



NEW TOBACCO RULES NOT ENOUGH: ACTIVISTS

Alberta provincial officials rolled out long-awaited tobacco legislation Thursday in a bid to keep youth away from products hazardous to their health. But some anti-smoking activists still aren't sold that the new rules go far enough. Story on page 5. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Teachers deem test trial 'an absolute mess'

Student Learning Assessments. Grade 3 students may be too young to handle a computerized test: ATA

Teachers around Alberta are handing down a failing grade to an initial trial of a new form of provincial testing.

This fall, the bulk of Grade 3 students in the province took part in a pilot of diagnostic Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) that are written online and intend to replace controversial end-of-year Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs), which are written by hand.

But dozens of comments posted by instructors to the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) website and gathered by representatives with the union, identify common themes as student confusion with the digital test and a severe lack of technology.

"The overwhelming response I received from teachers is that it was an initiative that created an absolute mess in terms of undue stress, in terms of workload ... to set up the exam, to administer it and to mark it," ATA President Mark Ramsankar said Thursday.

Ramsankar said, while his group believes the SLA model is a positive step forward, the province will need to iron out numerous kinks.

He also raised questions about whether Grade 3 kids are too young to properly complete the digital assessment and said his organization would prefer the tests be conducted at the outset of Grade 4.

A request for an interview on the SLAs trial put to Alberta Education was met with an emailed response Thursday.

"Teachers, parents, administrators and students have responded positively, and they continue working with us to refine and improve the assessments in the coming years," spokesperson Tamara Magnan wrote.

She noted that, in late September, Education Minister Gordon Dirks granted an extension that allowed the tests to be completed and marked between Sept. 29 to Oct. 24 — previously all tests were to be completed and returned to the province by Oct. 10.

"We have heard concerns from teachers regarding their workload and the SLAs, that is why we extended the timeline for administering this year's pilot from two weeks to four, and we are seeking feedback from everyone involved in order to improve the SLAs in future years," Magnan said.

The SLAs will also be phased in as the new standard for provincial testing in grades 6 and 9.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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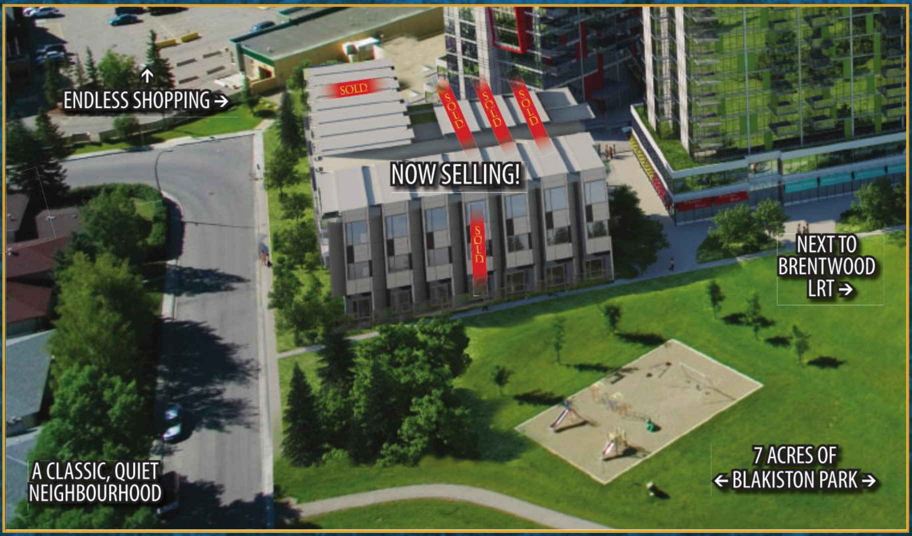
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Glenmore Trail

Arson charges laid in apartment fire

Calgary police arson investigators have laid charges against a man in connection with a Wednesday fire in an apartment building.

A blaze broke out at around 4 a.m. at the building, located in the 800 block of Glenmore Trail, and one person was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. There were also reports of people jumping from balconies on the four-storey building to escape the smoke.

Police have charged Orrie Dewhyte Hewson, 35, with arson-threat to human life, and two counts of arson-damage to property. He will next appear in court Monday. **METRO**

Sounds like gunshots

Did play trigger SAIT lockdown?

Police are investigating whether noise from a technical rehearsal for a play about World War I may have sparked a lengthy lockdown at SAIT.

A section of the school was closed for about two hours Wednesday evening after police got a call from an employee about several loud bangs that sounded like gunshots. Officers cleared students from the area, but found no trace of a gunman or shell casings.

The play is being staged at the nearby Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, where a theatre group has permission to use blanks in the performance.

Police say misinformation about the call that spread on social media did not help their investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tuition hike decision delayed by minister

Rally planned. Students at 10 schools across province could face added costs

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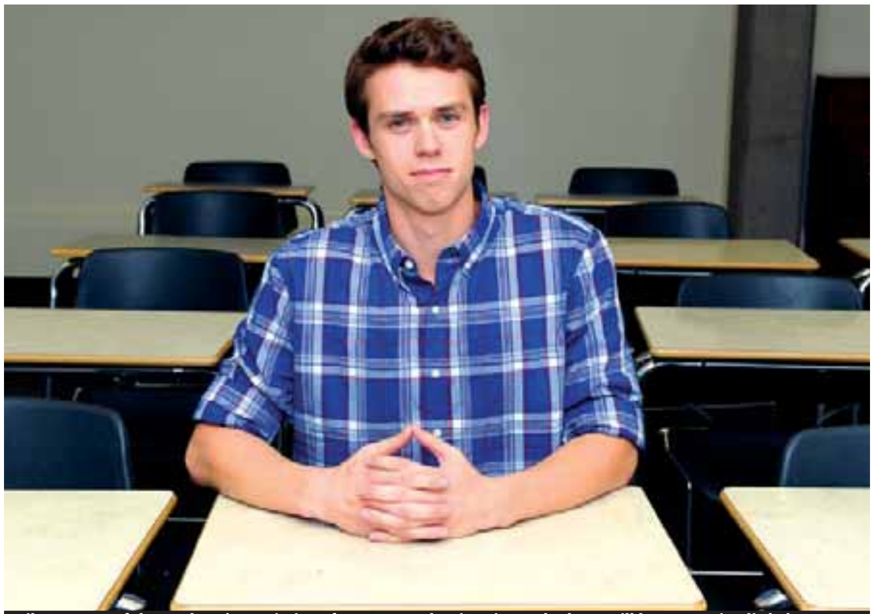

Erik Queenan of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, and others, will have to wait a little longer to find out which programs in the province will see tuition spike. METRO FILE

Alberta's post-secondary minister revealed Thursday just how many market-modifier tuition hike proposals he's received, but said he needs more time to mull them over.

It was expected that Minister Donald Scott would reveal Monday which schools would be granted approval to charge more in programs they say are being offered at a cheaper rate than similar offerings elsewhere in the country. Generally, tuition is tied to the rate of inflation, but the province has, for the first time in four years, opened the door to the far more significant modifier hikes.

Scott, however, noted the Nov. 17 deadline had been set by his minister predecessor, former premier Dave Hancock. He said he wasn't sure when he would announce his decision, but it wouldn't be on Monday.

"I want to make sure that I've taken the time to consider all the information that's been provided ... I consider the students and the institutions partners in education," he said. "I'm going to take all points of view into account."

The minister did reveal for the first time, however, that a total of 26 modifier requests have been submitted by 10 schools. While schools are free to discuss their proposals publicly, the province won't provide a definitive list of the those seeking the tuition bump and for which programs.

By comparison, in 2010, the last time the province mulled modifier hikes, five schools submitted a combined total of 24 proposals and six were approved.

Metro has confirmed six of the 10 schools that will be seeking the hikes this time around.

Calgary's Bow Valley College will seek boosts in healthcare aid, pharmacy technician and nursing, while their nearby peers at Mount Royal University will seek increases in business administration, nursing and science.

The University of Alberta (law, business and pharmacy) and University of Calgary (engineering, law and graduate business administration) will also seek hikes in three offerings apiece.

Students from across the province are planning to converge at Edmonton's Alberta Legislature building to rally against the hikes Monday. Even with word of the delay on the province's decision, Erik Queenan of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University said he expected the protest to go ahead and he hoped 100 students from Calgary, Lethbridge and elsewhere would join their peers in their provincial capital.

"This is really about saying we're willing to put in time, we're willing to put in effort to make sure that we're heard, and we want to be recognized for that," he said.

Head to Ed

Calgary students wishing to head to the legislature Monday are being asked to be at Wyckham House on the Mount Royal University campus no later than 8:45 a.m.

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Calgary growing Canada's game

New programs. Hockey Calgary plans review of league structure

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Time, travel and cost: These are the holy trinity of reasons some families steer their kids clear of the hockey rink.

But Hockey Calgary has launched some new initiatives to encourage youngsters to try — but not necessarily live, eat and breathe — the game.

"We want to provide more options, so that it doesn't become all-encompassing," explained Kevin Kobelka, executive director of minor hockey's governing body. "We're trying to create leagues that are different streams of hockey, that keep people playing the game, but maybe not at the same competitive level or with the same time commitment."

Last season, three west-end hockey associations — Glenlake, Trails West and Springbank — tested a house-league offering that doesn't keep standings or statistics.

Last month, Hockey Calgary partnered with Hockey Canada and Bauer Hockey to present a First Shift program. For $200, kids were given a six-week trial of hockey, equipment included. KidSport Calgary stepped in to knock the cost down even more for participants, all of whom had never played the game before.

The recently launched Comrie's Sports Equipment Bank, which gathers and re-distributes used sports equipment to low-income households, has also proven popular.

Hockey Calgary is also in the early stages of examining its league structure to assess whether it deters participation. Changes, such as the inclsuion of recreational hockey players in member associations, could pay dividends by keeping athletes coming to the rink, Kobelka said. But bigger strides could loom, too, especially as the city continues to expand.

"Does it make sense for a player that lives in Tuscany to play a game at 5:30 p.m. in South Fish Creek?" Kobelka said. "With traffic in this city right now and getting around, those are things we need to look into."

A recent report from Sport Calgary found between 55,000 and 60,000 people of all ages play hockey in the city, with growth specifically amongst women.

Midget hockey player Jaslyn Sawatzky has been suiting up for nine years, missing just one season when she broke her leg. She grew up idolizing famed Canadian female hockey superstar Hayley Wickenheiser and said it's important to continue introducing girls to the game at a young age.

"The earlier we get girls started, the more girls we'll have at a higher level and the better they'll be, the stronger they'll be," she said.

Calgary's hockey army

13,500

Hockey Calgary has slightly more than 13,500 participants enrolled in the current minor hockey season, which began Oct. 25. That's up a bit from the 13,400 who played last season, Kobelka said.

Seasoned midget hockey player Jaslyn Sawatzky hopes young girls will give the game a try, just like she did. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Calgary in better shape for snowy season: City

A past snowy commute on Calgary's Deerfoot Trail. METRO FILE

The city is opting to leave its snow-clearing plan virtually unchanged, with officials crossing their fingers that the snow will hold off and they won't have a repeat of last year's December blast.

"Last year was not without its challenges," said Sean Somers from the city's transportation department. Somers said it snowed every day during the first few weeks of December, which saw the seven-day plan falter.

"The bad news is that might happen again. The good news is I think we're better prepared for that this winter."

After last year's snow disaster, the City of Calgary has a $2-million budget up its sleeves for contracted services to help cope with emergency situations such as a week-long backlog of snow in some neighbourhoods.

"If we have a typical winter, this will have absolutely no effect," said Bill Biensch, manager of road maintenance.

That's assuming weather co-operates, and will allow the city to clear snow with the seven-day plan, as it does every year.

If snow persists and overwhelms the city, plans change and that's when the extra money will help crews respond accordingly.

The budget will allocate more funds for snow fences in neighbourhoods, especially in the northeast where snow drifts create extra work for crews, and a contractor ready to spring into action in an emergency situation.

As for neighbourhood roads, not much will change unless there are extreme conditions.

The city stands by its decision to not plow or remove snow from neighbourhood roads; instead it will flatblade or grade to cut down on packed snow buildup.

Parking in snow routes will be enforced strongly. As city crews try to clear the snow, violators won't receive advanced warnings as they have in past years.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

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Critics say new tobacco legislation is a step in the right direction, but are reeling because restrictions against menthol flavouring were left out of the new rules. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Province makes effort to break the teen smoking chain

New restrictions. Alberta cuts down on flavoured tobacco, but lets menthol slide

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Drive by Jack James High School and you see it:

Kids with cigarettes crowding the sidewalks to enjoy a drag.

She knows it's bad, but Audrey Comly, 17, says it's a personal choice and at her school there are at least 100 teens lighting up.

But Thursday the Government of Alberta took long-awaited measures to help kids breathe easy and many are applauding them as steps in the right direction. Restrictions on flavoured tobacco, selling to minors and smoking in vehicles with minors are all on the prohibited list — a decision that has been years in the making.

"You need to deal with the realities of the world and we made an effort to deal with flavoured tobaccos and I think that we are quite restrictive in that area," said Health Minister Stephen Mandel. "Reducing the exposure of children to tobacco and reducing the overall use of tobacco products will have positive outcomes across all areas of health care."

Critics, are reeling, however, as menthol flavouring evaded the strict rules.

Underage menthol use

"We will continue to work with government… we are disappointed with the exemption for menthol cigarettes," said Jeff Cummings from Campaign for a Smoke-Free Alberta. "Menthol makes cigarettes more addictive."

- Mandel stated the menthols would be left out of the restrictions because of the impact that would have on adult smokers. But Cummings says in Alberta 6,500 school-aged kids use menthol cigarettes; that's one in three youth smokers in comparison to one in 25 adult smokers.

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Large infills taking out too many mature trees: Killarney residents

Private property. City has rules about trees on public land but can't tell landowners what not to cut down

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Too many mature trees are coming down to make room for large infill developments in Killarney, according to some area residents, who are organizing to block — or at least tone down — such construction projects.

"We've been canvassing the neighbourhood," said Sheri Pollard. She is particularly concerned about the latest project proposed for a parcel of land near her home — a six-plex on a corner lot with several large evergreens.

She and her neighbours have gathered more than 100 names on a growing list of area residents concerned about shoehorning large multi-family homes into small lots with large trees.

"With these monstrous duplexes that are going up, it just can't accommodate that kind of square footage," she said. "Every new property, there's been trees lost."

Her next-door neighbour Catherine Munro has similar worries.

"I'd rather look at trees than a two-storey building," Munro said.

Coun. Evan Woolley, who just recently moved to Killarney, said the arboreous appeal of the area was a "huge selling feature" for him and his wife.

"The canopied streets … it's incredible," he said.

"I would like to make the argument that the developer spending the time to work around a big tree will create value for the sale of the land."

Killarney residents Catherine Munro, left, and Sheri Pollard are concerned about the loss of trees to infills. ROBSON FLETCHER / METRO

That said, he also recognizes the economics of building larger infills can override the value of maintaining mature trees.

"People are building out to the maximum amount on the envelope, because they can get more money when they have more square footage," Woolley said.

Pollard said she's been trying to organize a meeting between Woolley, herself, and other neighbours concerned about the infills.

Woolley said he's aware of the concerns but there's little, if anything, the city can currently do to prevent landowners from doing what they want with trees on their own land.

"I am loath to get into the business of the city telling people they can't take down a tree on private property," he said. "I think we start getting too much into people's backyards on that."

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MLA asks students to text their experiences

Gay-Straight Alliance. NDP critic has a new way for students to discuss trying to form the support group in schools

LEAH HOLOIDAY
leah.holoiday@metronews.ca

Sending a text may take on a whole new meaning for members from Alberta's New Democratic Party, as one MLA calls on students to share their experiences with Gay-Straight Alliances via SMS.

Last week, Education Minister Gordon Dirks asked the province's school boards to share the number of gay-straight alliances and anti-bullying groups running in each district. NDP critic Deron Bilous followed up the request with a fact-finding mission of his own.

"We feel it's very important that we're actually giving a voice to the very people GSAs affect," Bilous said Thursday following his announcement.

The initiative will offer students a platform to text in their stories and experiences of trying to launch a GSA in their school.

Bilous said he hopes the texts will offer insight to MLAs on the struggle students have endured trying to get GSAs off the ground before Liberal Bill 202, the Safe and Inclusive School Act, is introduced later this year.

"Before this hits the legislative floor, what we want to do is first of all give a voice to LGBTQ students and their allies to tell their stories," said Bilous.

Dr. Kris Wells, director of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies & Services at the University of Alberta, said any time the government is interested in learning more about the LGBTQ community it's a good sign.

"Any support or conversation on gay-straight alliance is good news for the province," said Wells. "These obstacles do exist and it's one of the reasons why the Liberal Bill 202 needs to pass."

Wells said he hopes the texts will kick off a broader conversation on LGBTQ issues in the province.

"The more discussion, the more conversation, the more stories, the better," he said.

Details

Students can text the NDP their stories anonymously to 587-410-5790.

NDP Education critic Deron Bilous hopes the new campaign will offer insight into the kind of struggles students have endured trying to launch GSAs. METRO FILE

Council approves disclosure rules

Mayor Naheed Nenshi was a bit taken aback — in a good way — when his council colleagues approved a new policy requiring them to disclose not only their real estate holdings, but a host of other financial information, too.

The new rules, approved by an 11-3 vote at the most recent regular meeting of council, apply not only to the mayor and councillors but also to their immediate family members, including spouses and any dependent children.

That aspect was a sticking point when the policy came forward at committee in mid-October, when councillors initially rejected the proposal.

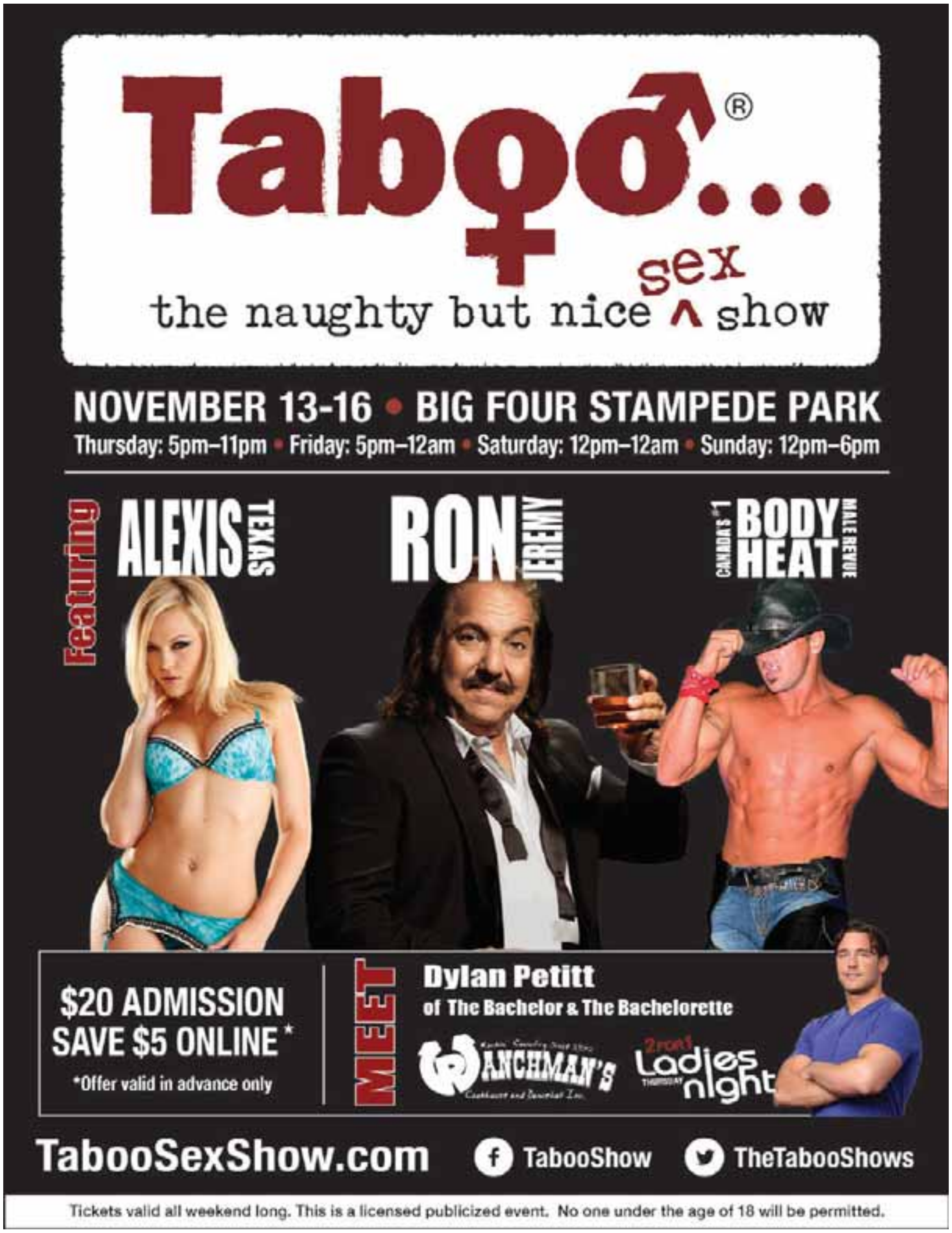
"What my children do is none of my business," Coun. Ray Jones said at the time.

Coun. Richard Pootmans also voted against the policy at committee, citing concerns that it would create an overlapping set of rules between the city and the province, but changed his tune when it came back to council as a whole in November.

"In the end, I did (vote in favour of the policy), because I like the idea in principle," Pootmans said. "It's an increasing age of transparency and the public is demanding it and I'm happy to comply."

The new policy not only resurrects the city's former real-estate disclosure registry, which was discontinued in 2000, it also requires the mayor and councillors to publicly reveal financial holdings in corporations, and outside employers.

Nenshi, who has been advocating for a policy like this for years, was happy with the outcome. "I am pleased (and honestly a little surprised) that Council passed my disclosure motion," he tweeted after the vote. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO



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CALGARY TRANSIT — IT'S NOT ME, IT'S YOU

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

You know how on Facebook they have the option to say that you're in complicated relationship? You've probably wondered who would ever actually admit to that. Well, me. I'm in a complicated relationship…with Calgary Transit.

For years I've made excuses for the service, even in this here column. Whether it's trying to explain to someone why Calgary Transit buses aren't able to handle typical Calgary snowfall or defending the fact that the displayed C-Train arrival times are as accurate as an ant being thrown at a dart board. "Hey, it's better than nothing," I would say.

But it's getting harder and harder to defend what feels more and more like an arranged marriage.

Earlier this week, after years of public outcry, Calgary Transit launched a redesign of its website. According to reports, it took more than a year to build, and it cost $500,000. Which is fine; websites can be expensive. But while I was tinkering on the website, I noticed that the website is actually just using Google Maps. Which, let's be honest, anyone that's been burned by CalgaryTransit.com before was already using.

CTrain Times
Unavailable

Mike Morrison wishes Calgary Transit's technology was more reliable. MIKE MORRISON/METRO

And how did the website do? Well, it crashed. And it didn't just crash on its first day of operation, it crashed on Nov. 10, which would have been one of its slower days, since many people took the day off to give themselves a four-day weekend.

And sure, if Calgary Transit was a small business, it would be mean of me to mock it for having a website crash on its first day. But when the website is basically a rebranded version of Google Maps and it's something that should have been put in place years ago, well then, enough is enough. Not to mention that Calgary Transit is hardly a small business. With a staff of more than 3,000, it is the largest, most public-facing business unit in the City of Calgary.

But it's not just the website. We've been promised e-fare payments since 2010. But due to some more glitches, the costly project was scrapped in 2012 and then revitalized earlier this year, even though an implementation date has yet to be set. What is taking so long? There is clearly a problem somewhere down the line. Who is going to take responsibility for yet another fumble? It's important to point out that a city like Lethbridge has had e-fare payments since 2011.

And let's not forget that Calgary Transit will also be increasing fees next year to $3.15. Fine. If you have to raise fees for better service, there's not much we can do about that. But what really irks me is that Calgary Transit has never done anything to earn or deserve customer loyalty. Did you know that we're the only major city in Canada that doesn't offer discounted fares — such as making it cheaper to ride at night, weekends, or when you buy tickets in bulk? I don't know a ton of about business, but Calgary Transit has to be the only place where buying something in bulk, like a 10-pack of tickets, results in absolutely zero discount.

I, for one, am done celebrating Calgary Transit's small victories. Why should we celebrate something that Calgarians deserved to have 10 years ago? We have to stop treating Calgary Transit like we don't deserve better. Like a real relationship, this is about trust and respect. And after years of using Calgary Transit, can anyone really say they deserve us?

Mike Morrison writes Mike's Bloggity Blog and tweets from @mikesbloggity

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Councillors may let girl keep pig that parents say helps her sleep

Oinker's obstacle. Debate over porker's fate looms next week

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Strathmore town councillors appear to have opened the barn door — slightly — and may now allow a young girl to keep her pot-bellied pig, a porker that the girl's parents say helps her ward off night terrors.

Previously, the Dahl family had been told that Vietnamese pot-belly would have to go because bylaws do not permit porcine to be kept as pets. Fowl, bovine, equine and poultry are also prohibited. But Chuckles has been registered with the National Service Animal Registry because the Dahls claim he helps their nine-year-old Cassandra sleep better.

Cassandra Dahl snuggles with her pot-bellied pig Chuckles. METRO FILE

Council has ordered town administrators to draft an amendment proposal that would grant an exemption.

Still, the proposal would require majority support from council, and Strathmore Mayor Mike Ell said Thursday that he's not necessarily sold on the pig's comforting powers.

"I need some information to confirm it.... In regards to a service animal, if you're blind, you have to be certified as blind and then you're entitled to a service animal," he said. "I see no difference in this case."

Christine Dahl, however, said her daughter has been suffering without Chuckles by her side. The girl and her pig recently spent a week together in Edmonton.

"She slept the whole night with him there," Christine said. "Now, back here, she's up and down."

Christine said she fears administrative bureaucracy and a lack of support from some skeptical councillors will grind to a halt efforts to grant an exemption. "It just seems like they're dragging their feet on it still," she said.

Ell said very few Alberta municipalities allow pigs as pets. Trevor Dahl has said that both the Town of Taber and City of Chestermere permit the pot-belly variety of pig.

Revisiting bylaw

Next steps in the Chuckles saga

Linda Nelson, Strathmore's deputy chief administrative officer, said the proposed amendment to the animal bylaw will be brought forward Wednesday and could receive the required three readings in a single night.

She said the proposal wouldn't necessarily be in place solely for the Dahl family, but others owning an off-kilter pet that was registered as providing a service of some sort.

"They would also have to have some proof that this is actually a therapy animal," she said.

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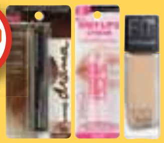

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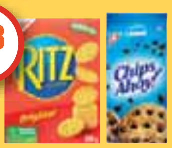

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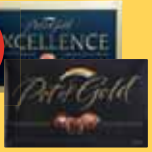

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Juanita Waugh, Cornerstone Youth Centre's program director, plays pool in the centre's game room. YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

Cornerstone of life for youth in Calgary

Comeback. Facility went from being broke to making a big difference in young lives

YASMIN JASWAL
calgary@metronews.ca

After being on the brink of closure in 2011, the Cornerstone Youth Centre revamped its strategies and recently celebrated its 10th year of being a place for children to have fun, build relationships, and feel a sense of community.

The centre is open to area children in grades 6 to 9.

It runs every day of the school week and offers students different programs and activities to keep them from feeling bored or getting involved in risky behaviours.

Juanita Waugh, the current program director, was recruited to the centre in 2011 and hasn't left since. She said she wants to have a positive impact on the kids, and she feels the centre helps her do that. "We have a lasting impact. It's not just a place they can come and be a part of when they're in junior high," said Waugh. "They can continue to come when they're in high school and be that impact on younger kids that we were on them."

Adam Lees, the centre's youth worker, started working at the centre for similar reasons. "We have the chance to impact the future by teaching the kids the stuff they need to know today," said Lees.

Larry Leach, the board chair for Cornerstone, said that, after receiving the necessary funding to continue running in 2011 from donors — both big and small, the team changed its strategy from raising money to make it through the year to one that focused on sustainability.

"We govern ourselves better, and that makes us a better organization to focus on what's important," said Leach.

"The focus is a little bit bigger so that we can service the kids better."

Quick facts

- The centre currently has 88 students registered for its program.
- According to Leach, when the centre first opened, there would often be less than 10 students showing up. Now the centre has between 20 to 30 students attend each day.
- The centre offers homework help, cooking classes, a music studio and a game room, among other things.
- The centre is open Monday to Friday. For more info, visit cyccalgary.com

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MADD again aims to raise impaired-driving awareness

Annual effort. Red ribbons around the city will remind Calgarians not to drink and drive this holiday season

YASMIN JASWAL
For Metro

...any questions?
DRINK DRIVE DIE

MADD Calgary had this truck, which was involved in an impaired driving accident, on display at Thursday's campaign launch. YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

With the holiday season just around the corner, officials behind Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada's Project Red Ribbon campaign are reminding Calgarians to make safer, smarter — potentially life-saving — choices.

"Our goal is to eradicate impaired driving this holiday season and beyond," said MADD Calgary's president Terry Hughes. "We're here every year; maybe one year we won't need to be here."

This is the campaign's 27th year and, as always, the focus is on promoting sober driving and reminding drivers injuries and deaths caused by impaired driving are preventable.

Hughes said MADD Calgary wants every Calgarian to see at least one red ribbon this holiday season, to both remind them to choose an alternate option when drinking and to help remember victims of impaired driving.

"The key message is: Choose your ride ahead if time, rather than having it chosen for you," said Hughes, who added that many impaired drivers end up in police vehicles, ambulances and even funeral coaches.

Darren Keeler, whose 19-year-old son was killed by an impaired driver in 2012, said MADD Canada has helped him and his family cope, which is one of the reasons he is involved with the campaign.

"It helped us all heal," he said. "That is something I can never thank MADD Canada enough for. Let's do everything we can to raise awareness of the dangers of impaired driving, and let's further our support for those who heal broken hearts."

Rose versus thorns. Wildrose party facing fundamental questions

The Wildrose party will put its body politic on the couch this weekend to decide who it is and where it's going following four byelection defeats.

"We need to have a full discussion about what it is we need to do differently and I'm looking forward to the chance to have that analysis," party leader Danielle Smith said in an interview.

"It's pretty clear we need to do some tweaking and change course on a few things — and I'm sure our members will give us some guidance."

Rank and file will gather Friday and Saturday at a hotel in Red Deer for the party's annual general meeting. It was originally intended to update members, make some policy and rule changes and rally the troops for the next election, due in the spring of 2016. That agenda was altered after the Wildrose lost four byelections on Oct. 27 to the Progressive Conservatives and new Premier Jim Prentice.

Smith said a Saturday bearpit session, which would normally see Smith and her team field questions from party members, has been changed. Instead, key party strategists are to sit on stage as grassroots members come to the microphone to tell them what is working, what isn't, and what needs to change. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regrouping

The Wildrose is looking to regroup after the byelections, which saw the party gain in popular votes but still lose.

- There were complaints that the party went too heavy on attack ads as it tried to paint Jim Prentice with the same brush of scandal and entitlement that led to former premier Alison Redford's resignation.

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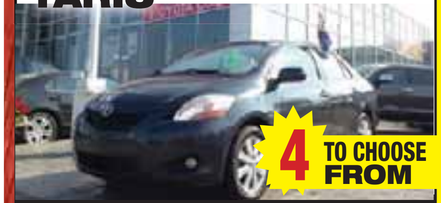
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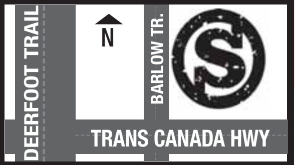

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Suds solution. Calgarian investors want their artisan liqueur to help bring business back to a city that’s seen its share of turmoil in recent years

MELITA KUBURAS
calgary@metronews.ca

Manuel Campos bought a house in Mexico, but he doesn’t like fishing and isn’t much of a golfer. So he turned to booze.

Not beer or tequila — the veterinary scientist and food fanatic wanted to create an artisan liqueur that would showcase locally sourced ingredients, and give farmers in Mazatlan a new market for their fruits.

In 2010 Campos, who immigrated to Canada in the 1980s and has lived in Calgary since 2001, launched a distillery business called Onilikan with a group of his friends from Canada as co-investors.

Onilikan’s operations are headquartered in Mazatlan, a port city in Sinaloa state, which runs lengthwise like a boot along Mexico’s northern Pacific coast and is known for abundant produce. Papayas grow year-round, 28 kinds of mango tree can bear fruit in the summer season, and hibiscus is used in everything from salad dressings to dessert glazes.

“We wanted to add value to the products that are there, which in turn will help the farmers,” said Campos, about the five couples (three of whom are from Calgary) who invested in Onilikan and bought houses in Mazatlan.

Campos, 60, loves mango, which he said catalyzes in a way that brings all other flavours together. For Onilikan’s first batch of booze, two tons of frozen mangoes were sent to The Okanagan in B.C., with the distillation process overseen by craft spirits guru Frank Deiter.

“We didn’t want to do it blindly. We wanted to find a way of doing it that could capture the aromas of the fruit,” Campos said of the process, which was a success.

But getting business off the ground didn’t go down as smoothly as shots of the Onilikan brandy.

Campos’s family lives in Mazatlan, including his sister Victoria, who works as a manager at the Onilikan shop — a bright yellow and orange building surrounded by cacti and agave plants located in the city’s “golden zone,” a touristy strip dotted with restaurants and hotels.

By the numbers

92,950

By the end of 2014, the Mazatlan tourism association estimates 92,950 tourists from Canada will have visited the city.

The location for the shop is strategic, meant to attract foot traffic. But about three weeks after the store opened in 2011, major cruise lines stopped docking, listing crime and security as a concern.

The following year, Canadians read gruesome reports of an elevator beating in which Calgarian Sheila Nabb was attacked while vacationing. She survived, and a man was caught and charged. Locals and expats insisted the incidents were isolated and that the city was safe — but traffic diminished tremendously.

“We’ve been in survival mode,” said Campos, about the impact the drop in tourism had on the business.

“That prompted us to start exporting faster than we thought,” he added.

Onilikan has distribution in Arizona and some parts of Canada, including B.C. and Calgary, which he expects to expand nationally in the next six months.

This year, things have started to turn around for Mazatlan: 442,618 international visitors are expected in the city by the end of 2014 — a 31 per cent increase from the previous year. A crime crackdown led to the arrest of notorious kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman in February. Local authorities also invested tens of millions of dollars into security efforts and beautification projects.

And the ships have started calling again.

This year, 35 boats from major cruise lines such as Norwegian, Holland America and Carnival came to the city, and in 2015 that number will nearly double to 69, according to the Port Authority of Mazatlan. Hopes are high, both for Onilikan business owners and local people, many of whom depend on tourism for their livelihood.

Like the other Canadian investors in Onilikan, Campos tries to spend six months of the year in Mexico, and he said the family business is helping his three grandchildren connect with their Mexican culture.

“We give them roots. They go to the farm, and they pick mangoes, and so it gives them a connection to the community and the place. For me, all of that is very important,” he said.

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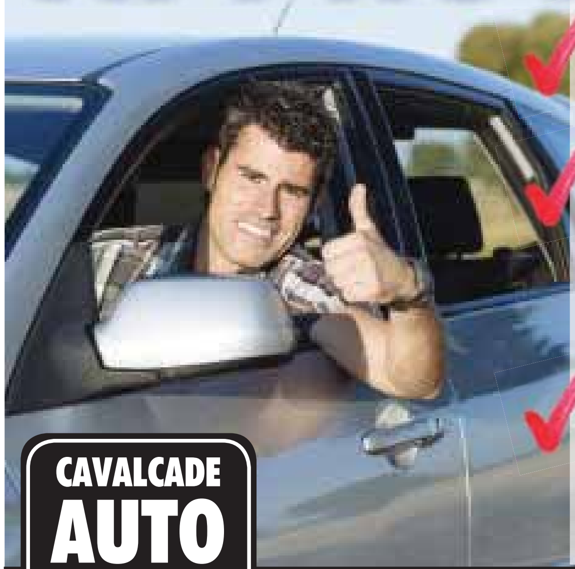

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Some of the products offered by Onilikan, the liquor-company creation of Calgary resident Manuel Campos. CONTRIBUTED

An investor's perspective.
Business showcases the agriculture of Mazatlan

This past Sunday, Judy Setrakov's husband sent her a picture of Kerby station to show what the first snow of the season had done to downtown Calgary.

"See how much I love you?" he wrote in the note. Because while he was battling the blizzard in Canada, she was sitting in their Mazatlan, Mexico, home with the door open to take in the calm, 29C heat — and he didn't complain about it.

Setrakov, a former lawyer who, along with her husband Lambert Maier, is an investor in Onilikan, first visited Mazatlan when she was 18 years old. Seduced by the long beaches and warm hearts of the local people, she vowed to come back.

Once again she can't imagine leaving Mazatlan, having connected with her "adopted family" there — Campos's mother and siblings — and keeping busy attending bachelorette parties, baptisms, weddings and Christmas dinners. "I'm like a cat on a hot tin roof," she laughs.

Setrakov, 59, who grew up in Loon Lake, Sask., said Mazatlan reminds her of home.

"In Saskatchewan, we were the bread basket of Canada," she said, adding that in Mexico, "we're trying to showcase the agriculture here. Because Mazatlan is more than beer and beach."

MELITA KUBURAS/FOR METRO

Sponsoring local charities

The Onilikan investors have always helped raise money for local charities, but now they're able to use the company as a sponsor for the initiatives.

- **"It's nicer to be able to do through a business," said Judy Setrakov, an investor in Onilikan who first visited Mazatlan when she was 18 years old.**

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Kink versus coercion: How experts test sexual desire

S&M and consent. Canada's top forensic psychiatrist explains what tests can tell us

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
Metro in Toronto

Toronto police have opened an investigation into former CBC radio host Jian Ghomeshi. Three women have come forward with accusations of sexual misconduct against him. No charges have been filed. CBC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some people are aroused by consensual sadomasochistic sex, and others are turned on by violating another person's consent.

In sexual-behaviour laboratories in Ottawa, it's possible to tell the difference.

The high-profile allegations against former CBC host Jian Ghomeshi have raised a lot of questions about consent and S&M.

"There are some people who, besides the fact that they may be interested in S&M sex, may also have arousal or sexual interest or sexual preference related to non-consensual sex," said Dr. John Bradford. "When we evaluate people ... we can tease out these types of things, to see what the sexual preference actually is."

Bradford has examined the country's most infamous sexually motivated serial killers: Paul Bernardo, Robert Pickton and Russell Williams. Bradford is the founder of the Forensic Psychiatry Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Ottawa, professor of forensic psychiatry at multiple universities, and a member of the Order of Canada.

He said that when discussing Ghomeshi, who has publicly acknowledged engaging in "rough sex," it's important to recognize that sadomasochism occurs all over the world between consenting people without issue.

He has not examined Ghomeshi and said he could talk only in general terms.

Nine women and one man have accused Ghomeshi of crimes including sexual harassment and non-consensual sexual violence. Ghomeshi has said through a Facebook posting that all of his sexual activities were consensual. He is under police investigation, but has not been charged.

Studying sexual preference

Bradford said a preference for non-consensual sex can be determined.

"We have sexual-behaviour laboratories where we can measure sexual arousal," he said.

Bradford said the subject would be presented with different situations — consensual and non-consensual — and his arousal would be measured to determine a sexual interest in violating consent. The subject would also be presented erotic aggression to determine sadistic interest.

Bradford said a preference for non-consensual sex can be determined by measuring physical signs of arousal, such as penis circumference.

If coercion, non-consensual sexual activity or violence is arousing to a person, it may be compulsive, he said.

"At a very high level, you see that in serial rapists and even people who go on to commit sexually motivated homicide. Like all biological things, there is a spectrum there."

Bradford typically offers his expertise at the sentencing stage of a criminal trial after examining the perpetrator.

"I suppose in theory, in extremely rare circumstances, it could be used as a guilt-or-innocence thing, but I don't think it should be. It's mostly related to treatability or rehabilitation and those components which come out at sentencing."

Nature or nurture? Choice or compulsion?

Even though Bradford is able to determine what people are aroused by, what's made them that way remains largely a mystery.

"What we know is that people who have atypical sexual interests, the best way to understand it is the same as anyone else. When we hit puberty and become sexually (mature) — we wake up, if you like — there's an outpouring of sex hormones, we develop a sex drive and sexual fantasies and urges.

"This appears to be preprogrammed. In other words, nobody chooses at that point to become pedophilic or have an atypical interest in S&M or things like that," he said.

There is research into whether developing an atypical sexual interest is nature or nurture, but it's inconclusive, he said. Most of the nature vs. nurture research is focused on criminals who commit sexually motivated homicides.

Some of those who commit sexually motivated homicides have been found to have brain damage or a chromosome abnormality.

However, that research can't explain why some people with atypical sexual preferences participate only in consenting activities, while others don't.

Bradford said there is promising research into how sexuality may be formed by the interaction of genetics and hormones while a person is still in the womb. That research is still too preliminary to be relied upon.

What's the deal with Big Ears Teddy?

As for one of the odder details of the Ghomeshi allegations — that he turned around his "Big Ears Teddy" so it couldn't see him become violent — Bradford said he couldn't know what it means without examining Ghomeshi.

But, if he were involved in a case with that detail, it would certainly be something he'd ask about.

"It may have all kinds of implications to it. It may be something to do with childhood ... It could be, in theory, very important if someone was engaged in a criminal trial and sentencing process. It may make the problems more understandable, and may also go to treatability," he said.

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Drones to patrol the U.S.-Canada border

‘Change detection.’ Predator Bs sweep remote areas and take high-resolution images for analysis by experts

The U.S. government now patrols nearly half the Mexican border by drones in a largely unheralded shift to control desolate stretches where there are no agents, camera towers, ground sensors or fences, and it plans to expand the strategy to the Canadian border.

Under the new approach, Predator Bs sweep remote mountains, canyons and rivers with a high-resolution video camera and return within three days for another video in the same spot, two officials with direct knowledge of the effort said on condition of anonymity.

The two videos are then overlaid for analysts who use sophisticated software to identify changes — the tracks of a farmer or cows, perhaps those of immigrants who entered the country illegally or a drug-laden Hummer, they said.

The government has operated about 10,000 drone flights under the strategy, known internally as “change detection,” since it began in March 2013. The flights currently cover about 900 miles, much of it in Texas, and are expected to expand to the Canadian border by the end of 2015. The strategy was launched and expanded at a time when President Barack Obama prepares to issue an executive order by the end of this year to reduce deportations and enhance border security.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A U.S. Customs and Border Patrol drone aircraft lifts off Sept. 24 at Ft. Huachuca in Sierra Vista, Ariz. MATT YORK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama hints at possible veto. Potential pitfalls to Keystone XL’s progress

The wild and unexpectedly speedy ride of Keystone XL legislation through the U.S. Congress late Wednesday had supporters of Canadian oil hopeful of a celebratory end to the project’s six years of stagnation.

Some realities, however, were setting in the following day. The biggest downer for pipeline enthusiasts came in news from Myanmar. That’s where the White House hinted during a news briefing Thursday, during President Barack Obama’s trip to Asia, that he might veto the bill.

If the legislation passes both chambers and gets Obama’s signature, it becomes law. But there are potential pitfalls that could prevent progress on the pipeline. Here are some of them:

- **The Veto:** A bill needs two-thirds support in Congress to override a presidential veto — which is 67 votes in the 100-seat Senate. The bill being pushed by Louisiana’s embattled Sen. Mary Landrieu does not have those votes.
- **The Legal Issues:** The pipeline doesn’t even have an approved route, at least not now. In Nebraska, the courts have thrown out the existing route, saying that the state’s Republican governor used unconstitutional methods to approve it.
- **The Filibuster:** It takes 60 votes to overcome a filibuster in the Senate. Landrieu has said she thinks she has those votes. Other estimates put the support at around 58 votes. This suggests there might be some arm-twisting and vote-counting early next week. The House is expected to pass the bill easily but the Senate vote, expected Tuesday, will be a squeaker.
- **The Weather:** It’s cold outside, and getting colder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shake-up underway?

Top staffer departs from Veterans Affairs

Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino is losing a key staff member in another sign that a shake-up is underway in the politically-troubled portfolio.

Jacques Fauteux, Fantino’s chief of staff and top adviser, revealed today that he is leaving, effective immediately. His departure comes just days after retired general Walt Natynczyk, the country’s former top military commander, took over as deputy minister.

The appointment was seen as a move by the Tories to get a handle on a file that has caused the government a lot of grief.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Increasingly popular

BoC considering merits of e-money

The Bank of Canada says it’s weighing the possible benefits of issuing electronic money.

Senior deputy governor Carolyn Wilkins says the central bank is evaluating the merits of digital currencies like Bitcoin — even as it monitors e-money’s potential pitfalls. Wilkins says people who use e-money need to be aware of the risks of putting their trust in a lightly regulated currency with limited or no user protection.

Wilkins says the increasingly popular digital currencies are not yet big enough to pose material risk to Canada’s financial stability as a whole.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Phoney soldier reported at Ottawa ceremony

Remembrance Day. Police investigating after veterans reported an imposter at the National War Memorial

Police are looking into claims that a man impersonated a Canadian soldier when he showed up in full — but flawed — military regalia at this week's Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa.

Eagle-eyed veterans and soldiers knew right away that something was amiss as the man was being interviewed during CBC's live coverage of Tuesday's events near the National War Memorial.

Various media reports have cited complaints about the style of the man's beard, the type of beret on his head, the positioning of his medals and badges and the fact that he wasn't wearing a sash during the interview.

It is a crime under the Criminal Code to impersonate a soldier.

After initially saying they had not received a formal complaint, Ottawa police issued a tweet Thursday to say that they would be launching an investigation following "numerous inquiries" about the man.

During a live CBC interview, the man identified himself as Franck Gervais — but the Department of National Defence says it has no record of anyone by that name.

The public broadcaster has since issued a statement expressing regret about the interview, saying it would be "following up to learn more about the man." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Quoted

> **"Such activities are a disservice to the proud men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces, who earn the right to wear their uniforms for the hard work and sacrifices made for our country."**
>
> **National Defence spokesman Daniel Le Bouthillier**
> in an email response to reports that Franck Gervais impersonated a Canadian soldier

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Aggravated assault

Quebec man pleads guilty in acid attack on ex-girlfriend

Tanya St-Arnauld is shown in an undated photo posted on a Facebook page. FACEBOOK

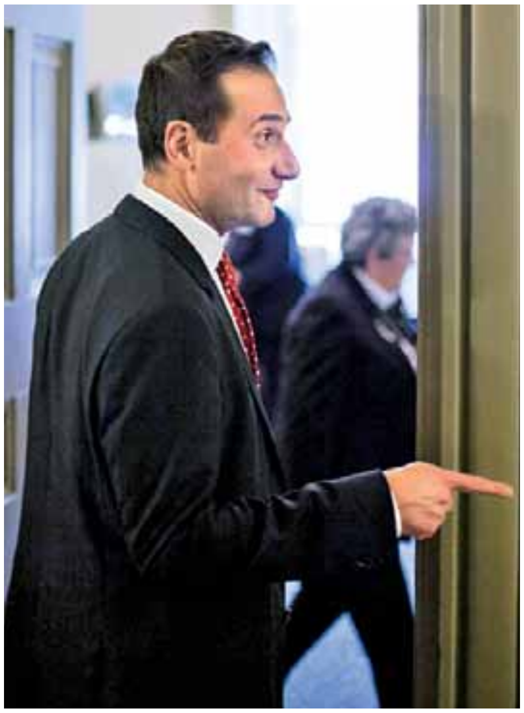
A Quebec man has pleaded guilty to aggravated assault after throwing acid in the face of his then-girlfriend in 2012.

Nikolas Stefanatos entered the plea in a Montreal-area courtroom Thursday, three weeks before his trial was set to begin.

The assault against Tanya St-Arnauld occurred in August 2012 with what police described as concrete cleaner.

Sentencing arguments have been set for Dec. 3.

St-Arnauld suffered serious burns to her head and upper body and was in a medically induced coma for days. She later required skin grafts. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Ghiz says goodbye to P.E.I.

Robert Ghiz points at the legislature in Charlottetown, Thursday, after announcing he is stepping down as premier of Prince Edward Island. Ghiz said his time is up in provincial politics but he could still make a career in the federal arena. He will remain as premier until a leadership convention in the new year, handing over the party at a time when the Liberals are far ahead in the polls and the opposition parties are struggling. Now 40, Ghiz has been the leader of the P.E.I. Liberals for 12 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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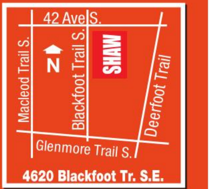

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Check ID if girl looks underage, cop tells johns

Sex workers. But new prostitution laws could be 'disincentive' for johns to call police, professor points out

JOE LOFARO
Metro in Ottawa

Det. Carolyn Botting, left, and Det. Kelly Lyle said the victims are happy with the 6-1/2-year sentence given to an 18-year-old woman who lured girls into a prostitution ring in Ottawa in 2012. JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

A lead detective in Ottawa's teen pimp investigation wants men who purchase sex to ensure the people they are having sex with are over 18 and willing participants. But an advocate for sex workers warns doing so might put johns in a legal quandary.

After the ringleader of the teen pimping ring was sentenced last week as an adult, Ottawa police Det. Carolyn Botting said men need to start talking to other men about the purchase of sex. "I think you have to do more than ask a person their age. You need to check identification," said Botting in an interview with Metro on Wednesday.

Chris Bruckert, a criminology professor at the University of Ottawa, said it is realistic to ask johns to make a better effort to ensure their customers are over 18 and consenting.

However, with the federal government's new prostitution laws that come into effect Dec. 6, Bruckert suspects the legislation will put johns in an awkward situation.

"If in fact they do call police because they suspect someone is underage or in a situation of exploitation, they're actually setting themselves up to be criminally charged," said Bruckert, a member of Prostitutes of Ottawa/Gatineau Work, Educate and Resist (POWER). "So, that's quite a big disincentive to not help the police."

Ottawa police uncovered the underage pimping ring in part because a john did call police after a girl who came to his door on May 18, 2012, told him she was 17 and was forced to be there. He later testified in court as a witness for the Crown.

Ottawa police identified four out of at least six johns in the teen pimping case. Only one was charged.

Prince Edward Island. Sewing needles now found in 10 potatoes, RCMP say

The RCMP in Prince Edward Island say their investigation into food tampering now includes 10 potatoes containing sewing needles.

The Mounties say the needles were found in three more potatoes originating from Linkletter Farms in Summerside with the help of metal detection equipment.

The potatoes were returned as part of a voluntary recall and have been sent to a forensic laboratory for more testing.

Police were already investigating seven incidents of potato tampering throughout the Atlantic provinces.

The RCMP say three more pallets of recalled potatoes have yet to be examined.

The potato industry in P.E.I. is offering a reward of up to $50,000 for information as to how needles ended up in the potatoes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

A metal object inserted in a potato is shown in an RCMP handout photo.
CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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‘She was never the same again’

Child porn case. Parents of victim satisfied with conditional discharge

HALEY RYAN
Metro in Halifax

The father of a victim in a high-profile child pornography case said he feels good about the strong comments made by the judge during sentencing, but would have liked to hear an apology from the accused “when it mattered.”

On Thursday, a youth court judge gave a conditional discharge to a 20-year-old man who pleaded guilty to making child porn involving a 15-year-old girl. He cannot be identified because he was 17 when he committed the offence.

The girl died last year after she was taken off life support following a suicide attempt, and cannot be identified because of a publication ban. She was 17.

“There’s no sentence that would be good enough or strong enough to ever reflect what this did to my daughter,” the father told reporters after court. His name can’t be published because it would identify the victim.

The victim’s father said he was glad the judge spoke strongly to the accused about the impact the photo had on his daughter’s life, but would have liked to hear from the young man before the incident came to court.

“He knew the damage that this did, and didn’t do anything about it. He should have (apologized) when it mattered,” he said.

Nearly a dozen Anonymous protesters holding signs with the victim’s name shouted “f–k the ban” outside court.

Both parents read victim impact statements in court and wiped tears from their eyes, with her mother saying the photo “ruined her life.”

“She was never the same again,” her mother said. “The impact and trauma that followed her was enormous.”

A sheriff’s deputy stands outside youth court in Halifax on Thursday. A young man who pleaded guilty in a prominent child pornography case has been given a conditional discharge. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guilty plea

Man avoids jail time

A young man who pleaded guilty to making child pornography after he took a picture of an intoxicated teenager having sex at a party was given a conditional discharge and a sharp reprimand by the judge for destroying the girl’s life.

“He should never forget the promising, vibrant, young life that was eventually destroyed by his choice to record an act of sexual degradation,” Judge Gregory Lenehan told the packed courtroom in Halifax.

The young man will also have to register with the national DNA database and meet with a youth worker periodically for 12 months. He was also ordered to issue a written apology to the girl’s family.

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Teen beaten, left for dead a ‘fighter’

Winnipeg. Mother of victim says her daughter is already talking about going back to school

The attack

- Police say Rinelle was out with friends Friday night when she got separated from her group. She met two men who struck up a conversation with her and the three of them walked to the Assiniboine River. There, police say, she was attacked and ended up in the frigid water.
- Rinelle managed to crawl out of the river upstream, but was attacked a second time and left, unconscious, to die.

When Julie Harper heard a knock at the door Saturday morning, she thought it was her 16-year-old daughter Rinelle, who had been out celebrating the completion of her high school midterms.

Instead, it was a Winnipeg police detective, there to tell her Rinelle had been beaten, sexually assaulted and left for dead beside the Assiniboine River. When she rushed to the hospital, Harper didn’t recognize her badly beaten daughter.

“I can still see her, lying there,” Harper said Thursday. “I didn’t think that was Rinelle, but it was her.”

Sexual assault victims aren’t usually identified publicly, but Rinelle’s parents allowed police to release her name while they searched for her attackers. Tips poured in and two young men, aged 20 and 17, were arrested Tuesday. They face charges of attempted murder and sexual assault.

They are also accused of aggravated sexual assault on a 23-year-old woman later that same night.

Julie and Caesar Harper, parents of Rinelle Harper, listen as Grand Chief David Harper speaks at a news conference in Winnipeg on Thursday. Julie Harper says her 16-year-old daughter — who was viciously attacked, sexually assaulted and left for dead in Winnipeg — is getting better. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Julie Harper said her daughter had just moved out of intensive care and into the children’s ward Thursday.

“She’s a big role model,” she said. “She’s a fighter. She’s a hero to everybody.”

Rinelle is already talking about going back to school, she added.

Originally from the Garden Hill First Nation, Rinelle has been living in Winnipeg for two years while attending Southeast Collegiate, a high school for aboriginal young people. The Grade 11 student, who is on the volleyball team, is interested in joining the military or the RCMP, her mother said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Comet lander rests in shadow of a cliff

Future doesn't look bright. Philae's shady position is problematic for its solar panels

Europe's comet lander Philae has come to rest in the shadow of a cliff, posing a potential problem for its solar panels, scientists said Thursday as they published the first image ever taken from the surface of a comet.

The photo shows a rocky terrain, with one of the lander's three feet visible in the corner of the frame.

It is part of a slew of data that Philae is transmitting back to Earth, indicating that its instruments are working properly, said Jean-Pierre Bibring, the lander's lead scientist at the European Space Agency.

Before deciding whether to try to adjust the lander, scientists will spend the next day or two collecting as much data as possible while its primary battery still has energy. The lander's solar panels were designed to provide an extra hour of battery life each day after that, but this may not be possible now.

Bibring and his colleagues stressed that the data they'll be able to collect with the primary batteries alone will have made the landing worthwhile.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

> "Unfortunately this is not a situation that we were hoping for."
>
> **Koen Geurts of the comet lander team** on the comet lander's position in the shadow of a cliff

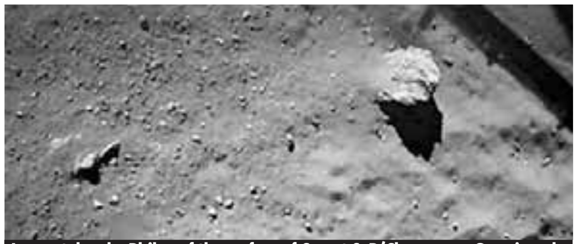

Image taken by Philae of the surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ESA/ROSETTA/PHILAE

Benefits

Lawmakers want to strip Nazis of U.S. pension

A bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced legislation Thursday to strip suspected Nazi war criminals of their U.S. government pension benefits, insisting American taxpayers should not be underwriting the retirement of anyone who participated in the Third Reich's atrocities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online dating scam

Man faces charges after using state AG's photo online

A Nigerian resident faces charges that he set up an online dating profile using a photo of Montana's attorney general and falsified stories about overseas business problems to scam several women. Felony charges against Kazeem Owonla were filed last month in Indiana.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sky-high repair job

Workers, using a scaffold, replace a window at 1 World Trade, Thursday, in New York, the day after two window washers were rescued from a dangling scaffold by firefighters who cut through the pane to reach them. KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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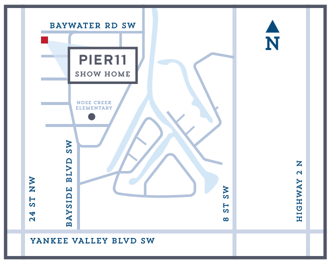

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Al-Qaida and ISIL may work together in Syria, rebels say

Terrorist pact. Officials believe militant groups have reached a deal to unite in fight against U.S.-led coalition forces

Militant leaders from al-Qaida and ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) gathered at a farmhouse in Syria last week and agreed on a plan to stop fighting each other and work together against their opponents, according to a high-level Syrian opposition official and a rebel commander.

Such an accord could present difficulties for Washington's strategy against ISIL. While warplanes from a U.S.-led coalition strike militants from the air, the Obama administration has counted on arming "moderate" rebel factions to push them back on the ground.

Those rebels, already considered relatively weak and disorganized, would face far stronger opposition if the two heavy-hitting militant groups are now working together.

ISIL — the group that has seized nearly a third of Syria and Iraq with a campaign of brutality and beheadings this year — and al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, known as the Nusra Front, have fought each other bitterly for more than a year to dominate the rebellion against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Co-operation would likely fall short of unifying the rival militant groups, and experts believe any pact could easily unravel.

U.S. intelligence officials have been watching the groups closely and say a full merger is not expected soon — if ever.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIS vs. al-Qaida

- **Warring factions.** ISIL entered the Syria war in 2012 from its home in Iraq and tried to impose itself as the leading faction in the rebellion behind which it feels all pious Muslims should unite. Al-Qaida initially rejected ISIL's claims, and entered a war-within-a-war against it.

Vigil for slain Christians

A young Muslim woman pays tribute to a Christian couple slain in Lahore, Pakistan. Police have arrested as many as 45 Muslims in connection with the killing of the couple for allegedly desecrating the Qur'an. K.M. CHAUDARY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq. U.S. may waive law to fund extremists

The Obama administration is asking Congress to exempt its military effort against ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) from a longstanding ban on U.S. assistance to torturers and war criminals.

The move highlights doubts about finding "clean" American allies in a region wracked by ethnic animosity and religious extremism.

The proposal is included in a recent request to Congress for $1.6 billion to train Iraqi and Kurdish forces to fight ISIL as part of a $5.6-billion request to expand the U.S. mission in Iraq. Key Senate Democrats are expected to oppose it.

It would exempt the funds from a 1997 law that bars the U.S. from funding military units suspected of "gross human rights violations," which include murder, torture and extrajudicial imprisonment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bosnia

Bosnian police arrest 11 people in terror crackdown

Police in Bosnia say they detained 11 people suspected of terrorist activities, including recruiting volunteers to fight in Syria for ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant).

More than 100 officers raided homes and businesses in the nationwide dragnet early Thursday.

Police said the raids were part of operation Damask, which began in September with the arrest of 16 people accused of financing and organizing trips to Syria by volunteer ISIL fighters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine

Ukraine officials fear Russian forces will attack soon

Ukraine warned Thursday that the security situation is steadily worsening in the country's rebel-held east, as separatist fighters move closer to government forces. One official said he feared an attack soon by Russian forces.

National Security and Defence Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko said the Russian army is massing troops near the border. Ukraine has accused Russia of aiding separatist forces.

Russian spokesman Alexander Lukashevich denied the charge.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ebola

Liberia lifts state of emergency, but virus now in Mali

Liberia's president said Thursday she is lifting a state of emergency imposed to control an Ebola outbreak that has ravaged the country, just as Mali reported that a fourth person has now believed to have died of Ebola in its capital. Mali had been spared from the crisis despite sharing a border with Guinea, where it began.

Meanwhile, Doctors Without Borders says accelerated clinical trials will be launched in West Africa to speed the search for a treatment for the virus.

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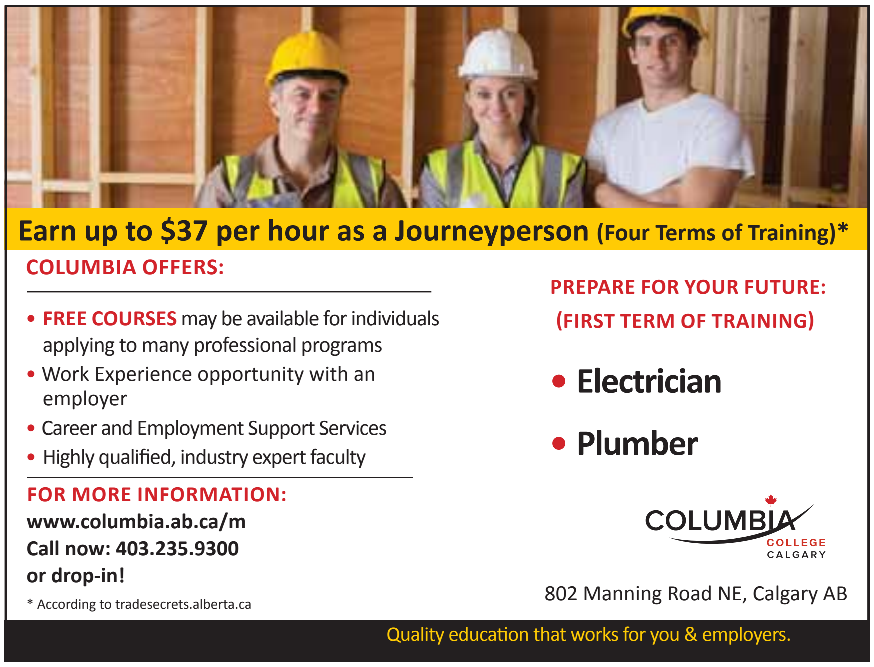
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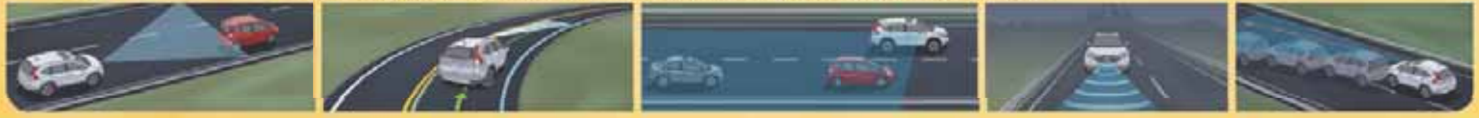

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Bigger than Tigger: Real tiger on loose near Disneyland Paris

On the prowl. With 70-kilogram cat nearby, police urge residents of three neighbouring French towns to stay indoors

Members of the police animal brigade walk through the streets of Montevrain, east of Paris, on Thursday. French authorities said a young tiger, seen inset, was on the loose near Disneyland Paris and urged residents in three towns to stay indoors. THIBAULT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French authorities said a young tiger was on the loose Thursday near Disneyland Paris, one of Europe's top tourist destinations, and urged residents in three towns to stay indoors.

The town of Montevrain sent out a news alert on its Facebook page Thursday saying a young tiger was spotted in the brush behind some tennis courts and a soccer field. The field is about nine kilometres from Disneyland Paris.

Around 60 police, fire and other security forces were trying to track the tiger, said Cedric Tartaud, chief of staff for the Montevrain mayor.

The tiger is estimated to weigh around 70 kilograms, Tartaud said.

Police were using a helicopter to help search for the animal, and a wolf-catcher was also drafted in to aid in the search, Seine-et-Marne authorities said.

Police and rescue squads at the scene roped off a security perimeter, authorities added, and they urged people living in Montevrain, Chessy and Chalifert to remain indoors. If they had to travel, police advised them to stay in their cars.

Disneyland Paris calls itself Europe's top tourist destination with 14.9 million visits in 2013. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Tennessee

Sheriff's office pays virus ransom

The Dickson County Sheriff's Office in Middle Tennessee ended up paying a ransom after a malicious computer program blocked access to their files. Det. Jeff McCliss told WTVF-TV that malware on a computer locked the agency's case files. He says the malware doesn't tamper with files on a computer, but locks them until a ransom is paid.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shocking increase

Warmer temps, more lightning

A new study says lightning strikes in the United States will likely increase by nearly 50 per cent by the end of the century, as the world gets warmer and wetter. Researchers calculated that for every degree Fahrenheit the world warms, lightning strikes will go up nearly seven per cent. That's 12 per cent for every degree Celsius. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Lawyers for Brown family urge restraint

Ferguson. County autopsy found teen shot six to eight times

Attorneys for the family of an 18-year-old, unarmed black man shot dead by police are urging restraint by both protesters and police once a grand jury decides whether the suburban St. Louis officer who shot him should face charges.

Attorneys Anthony Gray and Benjamin Crump held a press conference Thursday outside the St. Louis County Justice Center, where the grand jury is meeting and Dr. Michael Baden, who performed a private autopsy on the family's behalf, was scheduled to testify. Michael Brown's parents, who were in Geneva this week as the UN Committee Against Torture heard testimony about U.S. policies, did not attend.

Attorney Benjamin Crump ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

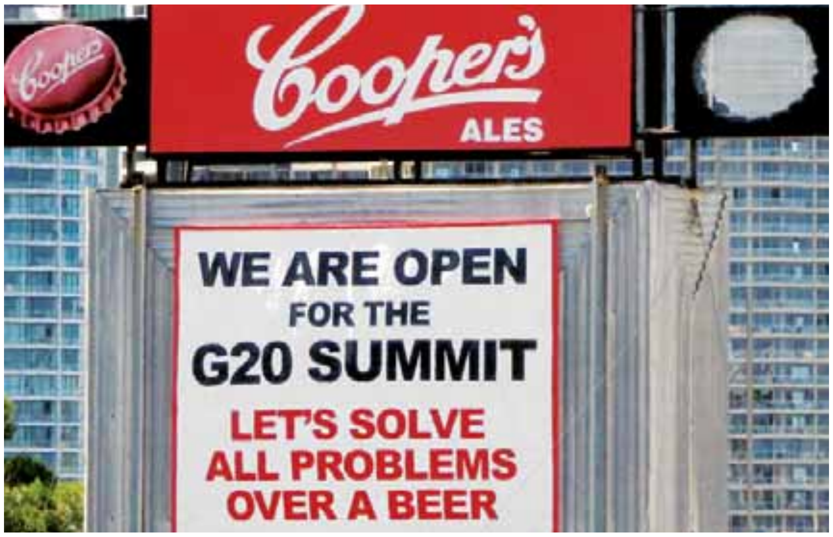
Their attorneys echoed Gov. Jay Nixon's call for protesters to avoid rioting, looting and violence, but faulted him for not also calling on police to exercise restraint.

Police were widely criticized for using armoured vehicles and tear gas to respond to mostly peaceful protests in the days after Ferguson Officer Darren Wilson shot Brown, after telling him and a friend to stop walking in the street.

Wilson told investigators he felt threatened while fighting with Brown from inside a police vehicle, where an initial shot was fired, according to information provided to news outlets by people described as familiar with the investigation.

Those accounts said Wilson told investigators that after Brown fled the vehicle, he turned around in a threatening manner, prompting Wilson to fire the fatal shots. But some witnesses said Brown had his hands up.

Crump said attorneys would not talk about Baden's testimony except to say he identified an additional entry wound in Brown's chest after seeing county medical examiner autopsy results. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



An Aussie welcome to world's top leaders

A sign near the G20 venue in Brisbane, Australia, welcomes officials from the world's biggest economies. For Queensland boosters, hosting is long overdue acknowledgement they don't live in subtropical backwater. Small businesses, however, are struggling against the disruptions of road closures and security measures. ROD MCGUIRK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When in Rome ...

Vatican to install public showers

Homeless people around the Vatican are getting a shower. The pope's chief alms-giver says three showers will be installed in public restrooms in St. Peter's Square, saying he came up with the idea after meeting a man embarrassed by his own stench. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Mom-daughter bonding

Mom and child both give birth

A Florida mother and daughter gave birth at the same hospital on the same day. Heather Penticoff and daughter Destinee Martin found out they were pregnant on the same day, had the same due dates and, for separate medical reasons, were both induced on Tuesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Theft

Is that a chainsaw in your pocket or ...

Police say a man stole a chainsaw by sticking it down his pants. Footage from Treasure Coast Lawn Equipment in Florida shows the man putting the tool worth more than $600 down his pants on Oct. 28. Police say Anthony Ballard had gone in asking for change. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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From rivals to frenemies. BlackBerry, Samsung team up, but are still competitors

An unlikely pairing of BlackBerry and Samsung, two rivals in the smartphone industry, took shape on Thursday as the Canadian technology firm announced it would make its mobile security technology available for the Android operating system.

It was a partnership that delivered a strong message: BlackBerry may have a lower profile these days, but it's still prepared to be competitive.

"I don't know how to feel these days. I don't know whether to wish Samsung success or not," BlackBerry chief executive John Chen joked from the stage at an investor conference in San Francisco.

Starting next year, business customers will have access to software on Samsung Galaxy smartphones and tablets that is linked with BlackBerry's new mobile security software, known as BlackBerry Enterprise Service 12.

Chen said BES12 will serve as an "anchor" for a plan to roll out more software to users and give large organizations the ability to manage both older BlackBerrys and more recent versions of its smartphones, as well as smartphones that run software from competitors such as Microsoft, Google and Apple. It will be made available through numerous carriers, including Rogers in Canada and Vodaphone in the United Kingdom. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Black humour

> "I don't know how to feel these days. I don't know whether to wish Samsung success or not."
>
> BlackBerry chief executive John Chen

Old college try?

Facebook shortens privacy policy

One more time, Facebook is trying to simplify its lengthy privacy policy — and make it much shorter — to explain how it targets advertisements to its 1.35 billion users.

The world's largest online social network uses the information people share on its site, along with the apps they use and the outside websites they visit, to show them ads deemed relevant to them. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Market Minute

↓	**DOLLAR**	87.90¢ (-0.47¢)
↓	**TSX**	14,780.24 (-75.96)
↓	**OIL**	$74.21 US (-$2.97)
↑	**GOLD**	$1,161.50 US (+$2.40)

Natural gas: $3.98 US (-$0.18)
Dow Jones: 17,652.79 (+40.59)

Regulator RE-AKTs to helmet claims

Washington Capitals star winger Alex Ovechkin is seen wearing a Bauer RE-AKT helmet in this game photo from April. A U.S.-based hockey equipment manufacturer has agreed to stop making claims which "create the impression" that one of its hockey helmets offers protection from concussions, the Competition Bureau said Thursday. The federal regulator said Bauer Hockey Corp.'s claims made in advertisements for the RE-AKT helmet were not supported by adequate testing, a finding the company said it did not agree with. The company will also donate $500,000 worth of equipment to a Canadian charity that supports youth participation in sport and pay $40,000 toward the cost of the bureau's investigation, the agency said.

STORY: THE CANADIAN PRESS; PHOTO: BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Hachette, Amazon bury the hatchet

A real nail-biter. After some twists and turns the online retailer and book publisher have reached a happy ending

One of publishing's nastiest, most high-profile conflicts, the months-long standoff between Amazon.com and Hachette Book Group, is ending.

Amazon and Hachette announced a multi-year agreement Thursday. With ebook revenues reportedly the key issue, Amazon had removed pre-order tags for Hachette books, reduced discounts and slowed deliveries, hurdles that should be gone well before the crucial holiday shopping season.

"This is great news for writers," Hachette CEO Michael Pietsch said in a statement. "The new agreement will benefit Hachette authors for years to come."

David Naggar, an Amazon vice-president, said the company was pleased that the agreement "includes specific financial incentives for Hachette to deliver lower prices, which we believe will be a great win for readers and authors alike."

The agreement takes effect early next year. Restrictions on Hachette books are being lifted immediately, according to the announcement, although delays on Carlos Santana's The Universal Tone, J.D. Salinger's Nine Stories and other works remained in place two hours after the news broke.

The Amazon-Hachette dispute had dominated publishing headlines and conversations for much of the year. James Patterson, John Green and hundreds of authors from various publishers had condemned Amazon, and Hachette author Stephen Colbert mocked the online retailer, which prides itself on customer service. Meanwhile, Hugh Howey, J.A. Konrath and other writers published by Amazon had blamed Hachette and praised Amazon for keeping prices down and allowing authors unhappy with traditional publishers to release their work elsewhere. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

More to the story

Hachette was among five publishers sued in 2012 by the U.S. Justice Department for allegedly fixing ebook prices. The publishers, who had worried that Amazon was charging too little for ebooks, settled and were required to negotiate new deals with Amazon and other retailers.

- Under the new agreement, Hachette set prices for ebooks, "and will also benefit from better terms when it delivers lower prices for readers."

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’TIS EASIER TO SEND THAN TO RECEIVE

GUEST COLUMN

Kate Carraway

metronews.ca

Of the many new and exciting ways to be sort of awful to each other that the online age has created, sending links is among the worst.

It doesn’t seem like it would be, I know. And maybe it’s not, actually. Many a link — via email, text message, chat, and messages, direct or instant, to articles, memes, videos, and other Internet detritus — is sent with the best possible intentions. This includes stories that you’re sure a friend would dig and probably hasn’t seen, or a link to a zoo’s “panda cam” sent on somebody’s sick day, or A-grade gossip that is best circulated as-is for maximum *schadenfreude* impact.

But maybe more often, it’s a ubiquitous bad habit enabled by social media; either a low-effort attempt to communicate something you don’t or can’t say yourself, or the casually passive-aggressive equivalency of an anonymous note — like, say, when I was exhausted by constant, pointless arguing with my then-boyfriend. I’d send him links to articles that more or less reflected my own position on a topic, and then would refuse to discuss or debate the links with him. (I now call that a “hit-and-run.”)

One of my best friends hates watching videos online — something to do with having to locate and put on her headphones in her open-plan office — and just deletes them.

I don’t like receiving a link of any kind without a note of context to let me know if I’m interrupting my daily sprint toward a deadline with a two-minute music video or a seven-page long-read about poverty.

Our individual Internet-styles are so totally personal and obscured from our friends and colleagues, and contingent on everything from loading speeds to work schedules and responsibilities, to emotional capacities for different kinds of content, that an act requiring the barest physical and mental effort to send can require much more to receive.

The “?” I might type in response to the sudden, stressful appearance of a link in a Gchat conversation — what will this be; what will the IRL implications be on my time and feelings and inbox; will I seriously have to click this and then respond to it — means my sweet friend sending a dancing pizza gif is cornered into explaining what was intended as a tiny, funny gesture.

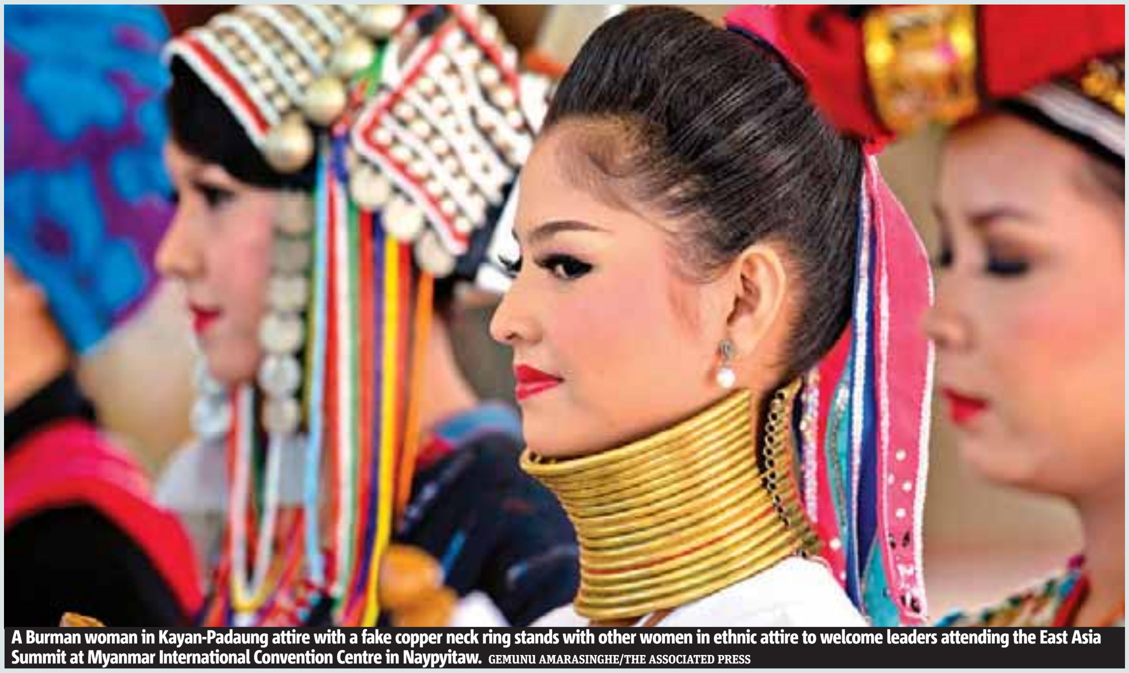
Sending a link to someone is different in purpose and effect than posting it for any and everyone to see.

Even with the very kindest online instincts — a dancing slice of pizza! — comes an expectation that the sended-to person engages with some third-party stuff.

My own rule is to send something that I think someone might like, but never follow up or ask if they’ve read it.

It’s not what your friend has to say, but what your friend wants you to see — that is a special kind of imposition on our attention, and a new, complicated social obligation to add to the list.

The politics of appropriation



A Burman woman in Kayan-Padaung attire with a fake copper neck ring stands with other women in ethnic attire to welcome leaders attending the East Asia Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Naypyitaw. GEMUNU AMARASINGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Myanmar’s ‘diverse’ greeters all come from dominant ethnic group

Women welcoming world leaders at the East Asia summit on Thursday stood in rows, clad in costumes representing Myanmar’s many ethnic groups, some with their hair tied in high knots or wrapped in red headdresses, others donning horizontally striped longyis and silver coin-studded capes.

But the ushers did not belong to any of the minority groups they represented. All were Burman, the ethnic majority that has dominated the government, military and economy since independence from Britain in 1948. Myanmar, a mostly Buddhist nation of 50 million, began transitioning to democracy in 2011 following a half-century of brutal military rule and self-imposed isolation. But while 40 per cent of the population belongs to one of more than 130 ethnic minorities, efforts by the new government to project unity often falter.

Take Naypyitaw. Purpose-built as Myanmar’s new capital, it is dotted by impressive stadiums, enormous meeting halls and hundreds of villas. Gilded pagodas abound, but there is not a single church, even though 80,000 residents are Christian.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meanwhile ...

Myanmar’s 1.3 million Rohingya Muslims, denied citizenship by the government, have been described by the UN as one of the world’s most persecuted minorities. More than 140,000 live in crowded, unsanitary camps, unable to pass police checkpoints to leave without paying hefty bribes.

MetroTube

metro AR

What the heck is a Yaybahar? Read on, inquisitive one

ANDREW
FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Designed in Turkey by Gorkem Sen, the Yaybahar is an acoustic instrument made from strings, drums and coiled springs that creates a fascinating sound mixing Middle Eastern music styles with space lasers. Get your headphones ready. More at soundcloud.com/gorkemsen. (Olgu Demir/Vimeo)

SCREENGRAB

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A B.C. woman’s self-portrait with a rodent has done extraordinarily well on the Internet. We asked readers to send their best selfie with their animal buddy.

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@H_C_MD1:

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Delayed sequels are often dumb

Movies. Twenty-year delay between Dumb and Dumber films invites comparison to such bombs as Bambi II, The Birds II and The Odd Couple II

Twenty years ago, Roger Ebert wrote that a moment in Dumb and Dumber, “made me laugh so loudly, I embarrassed myself.”

The movie, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels as the chicken-brained Lloyd and Harry, made $250 million at the box office and seemed likely to spawn a sequel, but nothing happened for almost 20 years.

There was a prequel — Dumb and Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd — but it was a Carrey-and-Daniel-less exercise in futility I called on its 2003 release, “one of the least-funny and ineptly made movies to ever play at your local multiplex.”

So why did it take 19 years and 333 days to release a Dumb and Dumber follow-up? Carrey says he wasn’t into doing sequels but softened because everyone kept hounding him, he joked, “even dead people.”

Fans had to wait ages for Dumb and Dumber’s return, but two decades is a mere drop in the bucket when compared to the gap between the 1942 Disney classic Bambi and its sequel Bambi II.

A 10-year-old who saw the original would have been old enough to send their grandkids to get popcorn refills when the sequel hit theatres overseas (it went direct to DVD in North America) almost 64 years later.

It’s been 20 years since the original movie, but Harry and Lloyd haven’t gotten any smarter, or funnier. CONTRIBUTED

In Review

RICHARD CROUSE

Dumb and Dumber To

Directors. Bobby and Peter Farrelly

Stars. Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels

●●●○○

In Dumb and Dumber To, Lloyd (Jim Carrey) and best friend Harry (Jeff Daniels) hit the road, this time in search of a daughter (Rachel Melvin) Harry didn’t know he had. She’s the “fruit of his loom” but could also be the kidney donor he needs to save his life. Two decades since the original, Harry and Lloyd haven’t gotten any wiser but they haven’t gotten much funnier, either. There are some astoundingly un-PC gags — and I mean “gags” literally — here, but none that reach the otherworldly vulgarity of the original’s laxative overdose scene. Instead it’s predictably silly, amiable stuff with wall-to-wall jokes and one-liners, some of which hit but most don’t.

And 30 years after Alfred Hitchcock made seagulls menacing in The Birds, a made-for-television movie called The Birds II: Land’s End revisited the killer avian story.

Tippi Hedren, star of the original, signed on and it was shot in the same house as the first film, but that’s where the similarities between the two end.

The New York Times called the film “feeble,” and Hedren said, “It’s absolutely horrible; it embarrasses me horribly.”

Also, 29 years and 343 days after 1968’s The Odd Couple hit the big screen, writer Neil Simon and stars Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau reunited for The Odd Couple II.

“We always had bad chemistry,” says Oscar Madison (Matthau). “We mix like oil and frozen yogurt.”

It marked the last starring roles for each of its leads and the final collaboration between Lemmon and Matthau after making 10 movies together.

These days, Hollywood seems obsessed with sequels and next year will be no different.

Mad Max: Fury Road, starring Tom Hardy in the role that made Mel Gibson famous, returns 30 years after Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome.

Jurassic World revisits Jurassic Park III, 13 years later.

But the biggest sequel news of the year — maybe of the decade — is the December 2015 release of Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

In the official Star Wars chronology, the new film follows 1983’s Return of the Jedi after a space of 32 years and 207 days.

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Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* 🏅 *Fresh:* 🍅 *Rotten:* ✳ *Audience response:* 🍿 *Audience anticipation for the film:* ✚

Drama

Whiplash

Director. Damien Chazelle

Stars. Miles Teller, J.K. Simmons

Andrew Neyman is an ambitious young jazz drummer, single-minded in his pursuit to rise to the top of his elite east coast music conservatory. Plagued by the failed writing career of his father, Andrew hungers day and night to become one of the greats. Terence Fletcher, an instructor equally known for his teaching talents as for his terrifying methods, leads the top jazz ensemble in the school.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 🏅 96% **Audience:** 🍿 94%

Animation

Big Hero 6

Director. Don Hall, Chris Williams

Stars. Ryan Potter, Scott Adsit

With all the heart and humour audiences expect from Walt Disney Animation Studios, Big Hero 6 is an action-packed comedy-adventure about robotics prodigy Hiro Hamada, who learns to harness his genius-thanks to his brilliant brother Tadashi and their like-minded friends: adrenaline junkie Go Go Tamago, neatnik Wasabi, chemistry whiz Honey Lemon and fanboy Fred.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 🏅 88% **Audience:** 🍅 94%

Drama

Rosewater

Director. Jon Stewart

Stars. Gael García Bernal, Kim Bodnia

Rosewater is based on The New York Times best-selling memoir Then They Came for Me: A Family's Story of Love, Captivity, and Survival, written by Maziar Bahari. The film marks the directorial debut of The Daily Show host Jon Stewart, and stars Gael García Bernal. Rosewater follows the Tehran-born Bahari, a broadcast journalist with Canadian citizenship.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 🍅 73% **Audience:** ✚ 91%

Comedy

Birdman

Director. Alejandro González Iñárritu

Stars. Michael Keaton, Lindsay Duncan

Birdman or The Unexpected Virtue Of Ignorance is a black comedy that tells the story of an actor (Michael Keaton) — famous for portraying an iconic superhero — as he struggles to mount a Broadway play. In the days leading up to opening night, he battles his ego and attempts to recover his family, his career, and himself.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 🏅 93% **Audience:** 🍿 92%

Mystery & Suspense

Horns

Director. Alexandre Aja

Stars. James Remar, Daniel Radcliffe

Based on the novel by Joe Hill, Horns is a supernatural thriller. The film follows Ig Perrish (Daniel Radcliffe), the No. 1 suspect for the violent rape and murder of his girlfriend, Merrin (Juno Temple). Hungover from a night of hard drinking, Ig awakens one morning to find horns starting to grow from his own head and soon realizes their power drives people to confess their sins.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: ✳ 58% **Audience:** ✚ 93%

Sci-Fi & Adventure

Interstellar

Director. Christopher Nolan

Stars. Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain

With our time on Earth coming to an end, a team of explorers undertakes the most important mission in human history: Travelling beyond this galaxy to discover whether mankind has a future among the stars.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 🍅 74% **Audience:** ✚ 99%

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Comedy

St. Vincent

Director. Theodore Melfi

Stars. Bill Murray,
Melissa McCarthy

Maggie (McCarthy), a single mother, moves into a new home in Brooklyn with her 12-year-old son, Oliver (Jaeden Lieberher). Forced to work long hours, she has no choice but to leave Oliver in the care of their new neighbour, Vincent (Murray), a retired curmudgeon with a penchant for alcohol and gambling. An odd friendship soon blossoms between the improbable pair.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics:	Audience:
64%	95%

Comedy

Maps to the Stars

Director. David Cronenberg

Stars. Julianne Moore,
Robert Pattinson

With this tale of a secret-filled Hollywood family on the verge of implosion, director David Cronenberg forges both a wicked social satire and a very human ghost story from our celebrity-obsessed culture. Meet the Weiss family, who are making their way in a sun-soaked Southern California rife with money, dreams, fame, envy, angst, yearning — and relentless hauntings.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics:	Audience:
68%	87%

Drama/Action/Adventure

The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared

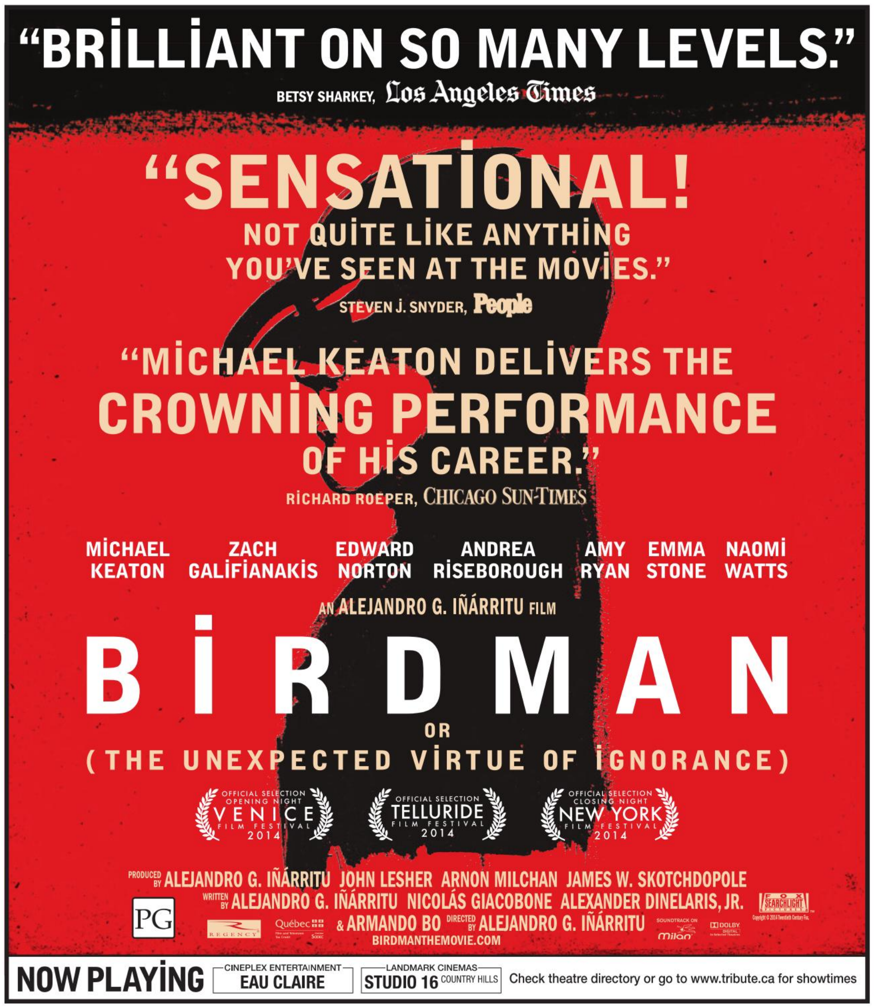
Director. Felix Herngren

Stars. Iwar Wiklander,
Robert Gustafsson

Based on the internationally best-selling novel by Jonas Jonasson, the unlikely story of a 100-year-old man who decides it's not too late to start over. For most people it would be the adventure of a lifetime, but Allan Karlsson's unexpected journey is not his first.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score

Critics:	Audience:
68%	80%



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STEVEN J. SNYDER, People

"MICHAEL KEATON DELIVERS THE
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RICHARD ROEPER, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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From The Daily Show to directorial debut

Movies. Jon Stewart gets behind the camera for Rosewater and injects some humour in a dark story

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Last summer Jon Stewart disappeared for two and a half months so he could direct a movie in Jordan. The result, Rosewater, is not a comedy, though it has jokes. It's about Maziar Bahari (played by Gael Garcia Bernal), an Iranian journalist who wound up detained and tortured by Tehran officials for 118 days — in part because of his appearance on The Daily Show.

Nice shout-out early in the film to Pier Pasolini's Teorema.
You gotta respect the Teorema shout-out! Maziar may be the most culturally literate individual I've ever met in my life. His vast knowledge of literature and art and music and film — it's actually annoying.

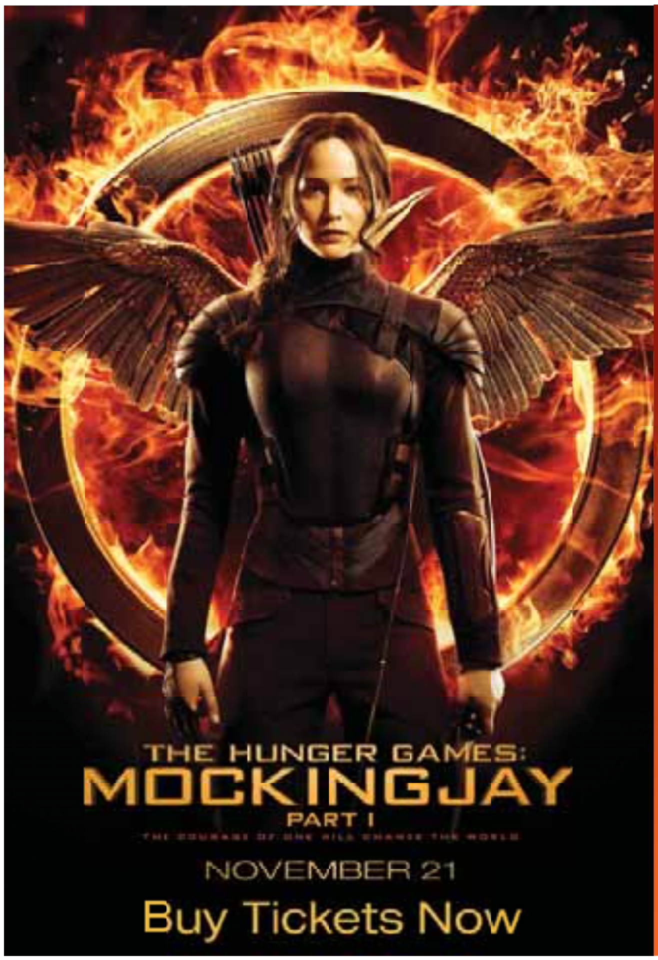
How did you prepare to direct a film? Did you bug filmmakers?
There were a couple of people I went to, just to ask, "Is this viable? I've written a script. Is it a script? Do you look at it and say, 'You know what, it turns out it's a recipe. This is actually mock-apple pie, it's not a movie.'"

Were there things that surprised you about filmmaking, things you weren't prepared for?
The availability of craft services. That was 24 hours of hummus and apricots, in a way that was quite surprising — and quite delicious. The process here wasn't alien to the process we use on the show. The difference is at the show we're in the same location every day. But we use the same sort of mechanics. So much of our time was spent trying to figure out how we can accomplish what we want to accomplish better and more efficiently. I had good actors, I had a good DP (director of photography), sound crew, production designers. So it was about making sure that the alchemy was right, that we were doing whatever we needed to make sure it all worked.

This is a more serious production than The Daily Show.
I don't believe so. On The Daily Show, we use the tools of satire to address war, death, famine, all kinds of things. With this, we're using the tools of cinema to address very similar themes and subtexts.

Can you talk about the humour in this film? It's far from a comedy, but there are jokes.
I think humour was so central to Maziar's survival and central to his memoir. I wanted to make sure we got humour in there, but in a way that we didn't impose it on it — not in any kind of contrivance but in a way that allowed it to grow organically from those situations. If we had heightened it and created farcical elements around it, it would have diminished just how the reality of the absurdity was so stark.

Jon Stewart's directorial debut, Rosewater, opens this Friday. CONTRIBUTED



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Bringing ‘were’-withal to Wolves. And howl!

Movies. Werewolf film director David Hayter on making the monsters that make the movie

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

It’s taken filmmaker David Hayter seven long years to bring his werewolf thriller to the big screen, and in that time he’s learned one important lesson.

“Vampires have it easy. You just put some pale makeup on a good-looking actor and a cool pair of teeth and you got yourself a vampire,” laughed the 45-year-old writer-turned-director. “Werewolves are an entirely different thing. You can’t scrimp on the creature because that’s part of the joy of seeing a movie like this — seeing how the filmmakers execute the creature.”

In the case of his forthcoming feature Wolves, that meant forsaking the budget normally reserved for an A-list cast to pour those dollars into effects and monster design. For Hayter’s lupine lead characters, that meant no canine snouts (“they read like a big nose”) and a focus on realism.

“We all think werewolves are cool but in their execution, they can really go badly,” stated the dual Canadian-American citizen. “You have to determine what you think is subconsciously hilarious and take the edges off that.”

Hayter didn’t just want to explore the world of costume design. The screenwriter of such hits as Watchmen and X-Men aimed to spin a fresh angle on the werewolf mythology through a tale of a young violent teen who must come to terms with his wolfen bloodlines in a small town carrying dark secrets.

It may have been a challenge, but having studied under acclaimed X-Men director Bryan Singer several times, Hayter borrowed from the best.

“Pretty much everything I do in filmmaking I do with Bryan’s voice in my head screaming at me not to turn out crap,” said Hayter.

“Every element from creature design to screenplay execution to dealing with actors — all that stuff comes from what I learned from Bryan.”

A scene from David Hayters’s thriller Wolves. CONTRIBUTED

The greatest and the most underrated werewolf films

The Most Important Werewolf Film: American Werewolf in London

- “It’s such an incredible film, werewolf or no,” said Hayter of the 1981 John Landis hit. “Obviously the prosthetic effects in it weren’t only groundbreaking, but they continue to be incredible pieces of art today.”

The Most Underrated Werewolf Film: Ginger Snaps

- “I didn’t really understand the title and I just thought it sounded silly,” said Hayter of the 2000 Canadian horror classic. “It had a couple of sequels so I guess it got a good amount of attention, but it was really good.”

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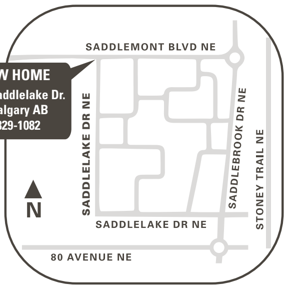

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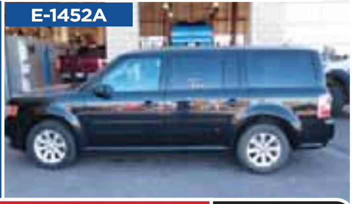

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WOOD AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Back due to questionable demand

They thought they were out, but someone brought them back in: Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels spent 20 years away from their Dumb and Dumber doofus roles. But fate — or in the former's case, a lagging career — means it's time for Dumb and Dumber To. Carrey's not alone. Others have spent longer than two decades away from a signature role, only to be drawn back due to audience needs, filmmaker needs, or plain old desperation

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Jeff Bridges

Character: Kevin Flynn
Film: Tron: Legacy (2010)
Previous film: Tron (1982)
Time elapsed: 28 years
Disney double dips: The original Tron was not a hit (although the line of arcade games that sprang from it was). But nearly 30 years was enough time for it to amass a cult sizable enough for Disney to try again — which also meant the most recognizably human character, Bridges' feisty computer programmer Flynn, was now in his 60s. No matter: They used both an aging, more than vaguely Lebowski-esque Bridges as Flynn, as well as a creepy, digitally youthenized, version of same as his evil computer doppelganger.

Dan Aykroyd

Character: Elwood Blues
Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998)
Previous film: The Blues Brothers (1980)
Time elapsed: 18 years
Smash and crash: Far more inventive than any SNL spinoff ever needed to be, the original took a questionable act — two white guys co-opting the blues, which is not actually the joke — and piled on deadpan silliness and cars atop cars atop cars. This is another case where a movie is enough of a home video and TV staple to warrant a return to the well — except this is a case where one of the two leads is long dead. And so John Belushi was replaced as Jake Blues by both John Goodman and, of course, a kid. Perhaps inevitably, few of the few who saw it enjoyed it.

Sharon Stone

Characters: Catherine Tramell
Film: Basic Instinct 2 (2006)
Previous film: Basic Instinct (1992)
Time elapsed: 14 years
No legs: Even ignoring the trashy leg-crossing and enthusiastic bonk scenes, Stone's breakthrough performance is something else — a legitimately charismatic, seductive powerhouse that hit viewers as mightily as it did Michael Douglas' short-fused detective. A sequel was always a terrible idea, treating a compelling character like just another quippy franchise killer. That's what it got with this pathetic, too-late sequel, which had the misfortune to come out shortly after Stone had given a few terrific, possibly career-salvaging performances. (She's great in Jim Jarmusch's Broken Flowers.)

Harrison Ford

Character: Indiana Jones
Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008)
Previous film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989)
Time elapsed: 19 years
Whip without the wry: No one much enjoys this fourth Indy romp, with a 60-something Ford largely grumpy and uninterested in working the wry charm that made the character such an atypically rich action hero. But it has more moments than it might have seemed at the time, and does a fine job dialling down the first three films' casual xenophobia, if not outright racism (see: Temple of Doom's treatment of Indian cuisine). So there's that.

Notice of Hearing For Temporary Guardianship Order To

Mike Robertson

Take notice that on the **24th day of November 2014 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1208, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, an Initial Custody Hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Temporary Guardianship Order**; of your child born on **August 24, 2014.** If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

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SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Anthony Perkins

Character: Norman Bates

Film: Psycho II (1983)

Previous film: Psycho (1960)

Time elapsed: 23 years

Career killer: As Perkins would often complain, Psycho ruined his career, pigeonholing a budding talent into a series of creepy roles. He finally owned it with this surprisingly not remotely sacrilegious followup, which finds Norman returning from the hospital allegedly rehabilitated, but forced back into insanity by the meddling of others. The director was Australia's Richard Franklin, who made one of the best Hitchcock ripoffs, Roadgames, which is essentially Rear Window in a truck. Perkins returned to the role twice more, even directing 1986's Psycho III.

Michael Douglas

Character: Gordon Gekko

Film: Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (2010)

Previous film: Wall Street (1987)

Time elapsed: 23 years

Hitting the wall, softly: Few characters are more '80s than the stockbroker beast of Oliver Stone's tidy takedown of Reagan-era capitalism. Gekko was even the inspiration for the '80s guy from Futurama. Soon after the financial apocalypse of 2008, Stone felt the time was right to bring him back, offering a calmed down, remorseful Gekko — or so it seems. Actually, the film holds back on him, not giving him, nor the even worse Wall Street of a quarter-century later, the thunderous face-slap it deserved (and deserves).

Sean Connery

Character: James Bond

Film: Never Say Never Again (1983)

Previous film: Diamonds Are Forever (1971)

Time elapsed: 12 years

Bond battles: It's bizarre, but it happened: The same year the 13th Bond film, the Roger Moore-led Octopussy, was released, so was another Bond film, starring the previous 007, Sean Connery, plus a new toupée. (That said, Moore is actually three years older than Connery, so Connery being 53 wasn't, relatively speaking, that old.) Through some legal manoeuvring, another company had scored the rights to Thunderball, and decided to launch a competing franchise, even though the only Bond material it had was Thunderball. The fight ended in a draw: Both films made about the exact same at the box office.

Sylvester Stallone

Character: John Rambo

Film: Rambo (2008)

Previous film: Rambo III (1988)

Time elapsed: 20 years

Rocky inspiration: Sly swore he was retiring from action with 1996's Daybreak. In part because that tanked — and because serious roles like Copland did not lead to more dramatic work — he found himself returning to the genre, exhuming characters long presumed movie-dead. After the semi-surprise success of Rocky Balboa (done a mere 16 years after Rocky), he dusted off John Rambo, too.

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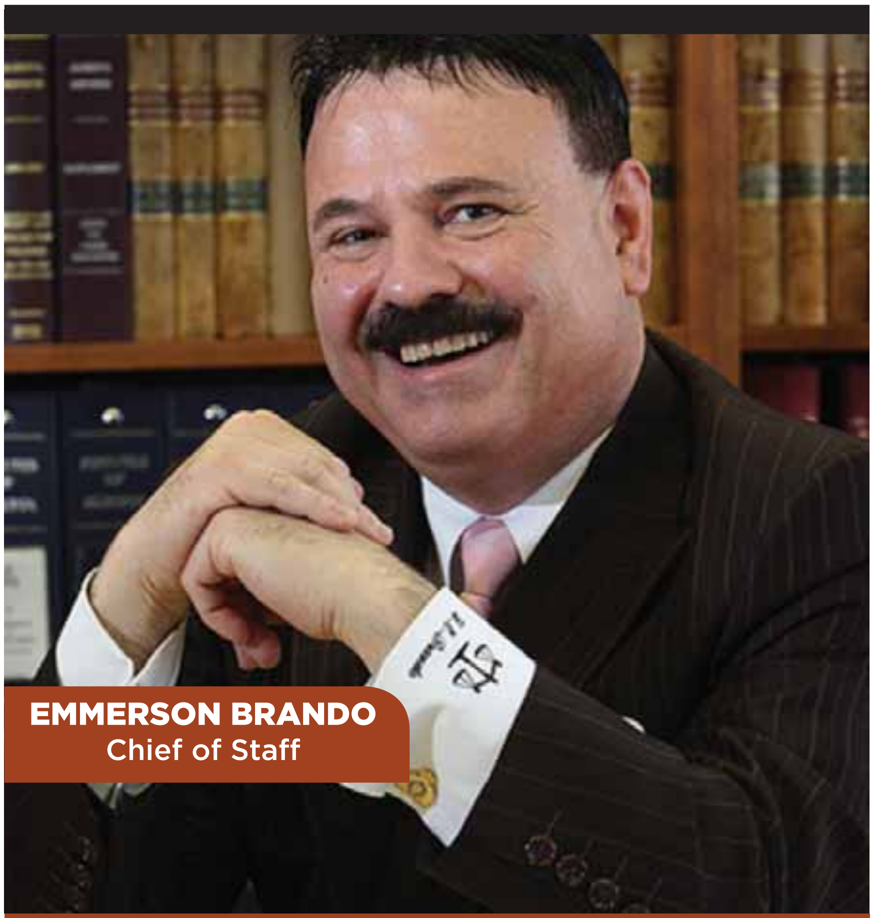

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When Peeta is pining for his pet...

Movies. Josh Hutcherson is really happy to be finished filming the Hunger Games — so he can hang out with his dog

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

The release of The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1 is the beginning of the end for the super-successful dystopian franchise (Part 2 won't be out for another year), but Josh Hutcherson is all done. And he's ready to relax and take it easy at home for a while — at least to keep his dog happy.

It's sort of past tense now that you're done shooting the Hunger Games films, but how did you fit in other projects between movies?
Between the first Hunger Games and the second one, I didn't do anything. I really enjoyed just living — which is so nice, by the way. Living is a great thing to do. You forget how nice it is until you do it sometimes. But then between Catching Fire and Mockingjay, I really wanted to do this project, Escobar: Paradise Lost, and make it work. I read the script for it before I even did the first Hunger Games, but it was just about finding the time for it. It was really important to me.

Josh Hutcherson CONTRIBUTED

Do you have a sense of needing to seize on opportunities while they're plentiful and your profile is raised?
Truthfully, I haven't stopped working since I was nine. For the last 12 years, I've done almost a movie or two every year. So it's a lot, and I'm kind of now just realizing that the success of Hunger Games has afforded me the ability to not have to work right now. There's an element of wanting to strike while the iron's hot, of course, and because of that, I'm creating relationships with directors and producers and reading so many scripts, but I don't really feel pressure to work right now. I actually feel the opposite. I feel that I have pressure to relax. So it's good for right now. I don't have another project planned; I'm just taking it easy and reading scripts. I also want to develop stuff. I want to produce and direct in the future, so it's kind of getting my first step into that world as well.

I feel like you mentioned an idea of directing way back when we talked for The Kids are All Right. How has that progressed since then?
To producing. I've sort of gotten involved in that, and I think just through experience. Just being experienced on set and learning more from directors I've worked with, reading more stories and reading more scripts, you know more. I want to know more things before I direct. I don't think I'm smart enough yet.

If you're being forced to relax, what does that involve?
I was actually just in Hawaii, and that involved doing nothing. If I'm relaxing, I want to be doing nothing. I like to sleep a lot, lay in the sand, swim in the ocean — that's my idea of relaxing. But honestly for me, just hanging out. I don't do a whole lot. I like to go out, have some fun, go to some bars or something, but really just relaxing with friends, hanging out at the house, listening to music — my dog. I'm with my dog all of the time. He's the love of my life.

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Canyon Meadows Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail

Annabelle (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:25-9:50

The Boxtrolls (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-7:10 Dolphin Tale 2 (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:45

Hector and the Search for Happiness (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45

How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:20

The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-7-9:40

The Judge (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:25

Let's Be Cops (14A) Fri-Thu 7:15-9:55

Lucy (14A) Fri-Tue 7:25-10 Wed-Thu 10

Maleficent (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10

Planes: Fire & Rescue (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05

Sin City 2: A Dame to Kill For (18A) Fri-Thu 9:50

The Skeleton Twins (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:55-9:30

This Is Where I Leave You (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:05-9:35

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Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri-Sun 1:35-3:45-5:50-8 Mon 2:35-4:15 Tue 2:35-4:55-7:10 Wed 4:55-7:10 Thu 2:35-4:55-7:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30

Big Hero 6 (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-6:45-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:30-4:05-6:45-9:30

Big Hero 6 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:45-2:20-4:55-7:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 2:20-5:05-7:45-10:25

Bolshoi Ballet: The Pharaoh's Daughter - Encore (STC) Thu 7

The Book of Life (G) Fri-Sun 12:10 Mon-Thu 1:45

The Book of Life 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:40 Mon-Thu 4:10

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) No Passes Fri 11:50-1:55-2:25-4:35-5:10-7:15-7:45-9:55-10:25 No Passes Sat 11:20-11:50-1:55-2:25-4:35-5:10-7:15-7:45-9:55-10:25 No Passes Sun 11:50-1:55-2:25-4:35-5:10-7:15-7:45-9:55-10:25 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:55-2:25-4:35-5-7:15-7:50-9:55-10:25 No Passes Wed 2:25-4:35-5-7:15-7:50-9:55-10:25 No Passes Thu 1:55-2:25-4:35-5-7:15-7:50-9:55-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30

Fury (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4-7:20-10:30 Mon-Thu 4-7-10:05

Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:40-7-10:25 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:40-10

Gone With the Wind (STC) Mon 6:30

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Sat 11

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Thu 8-9:25-10:45

Interstellar (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-2:30-6-6:25-9:40-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 2:05-2:30-6-6:25-9:40-10

John Wick (14A) Fri-Sun 10:10 Mon-Wed 10:20

The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Sun 5-7:50-10:30 Mon-Wed 7:25-10:10

Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:30-7:25-10:15 Sun 4:30-7:25-10:15 Mon 1:35-4:30-7:35 Tue 1:35-4:20-7:35-10:30 Wed-Thu 1:35-4:20-10:30

St. Vincent (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:40-10:15

Eau Claire Market, 200 Barlay Parade

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 6-9

Gone Girl (18A) Fri 6:50-10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 Mon-Tue 5:20-8:30 Wed 8:30 Thu 5:20-8:30

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Thu 8

Interstellar (PG) No Passes Fri 8 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-4:20-8 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-8:50

Nightcrawler (14A) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Tue 5:50-8:40 Wed 5:50

Rosewater (14A) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20

Whiplash (14A) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-4-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10

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Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri 12:15-6:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 10:20-12:15-6:15-9:15 Mon-Tue 6:15-9:15 Wed 3:30-6:15-6:45-9:15-10 Thu 4:15-6:15-7:10-9:15-10 Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:10-10 Mon-Tue 4:15-7:10-10

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:30-10:15

The Book of Life (G) Fri-Sun 2

Chaar Sahibzaade 3D (PG) Fri 1:10-4:05-6:50 Sat 4:05-6:50 Sun 1:10-4:05-6:50 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:50

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 1:30-4:20-7:20-10 Sat 10:50-1:10-1:30-3:30-4:20-6:20-7:20-10 Sun 10:50-12:40-1:30-3:30-4:20-6:20-7:20-9:20-10 Mon-Wed 3:30-4:20-6:20-7:20-9:20-10 Thu 3:30-4:20-6:45-7:20-9:30-10 Fri 12:40-3:30-6:20-9:20 Sat 9:20 Wed 1

Fury (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:40 Mon-Wed 3:20-6:30-9:40 Thu 3:20-6:30 Thu 9:40

Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Thu 4:10-8:30

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Thu 8-8:30-9

Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-1-4:30-5-9-9:30-9:45 Mon-Wed 5-9-9:45 Thu 3-3:30-5-7-9-9:45 Fri 3-7 Sat-Sun 11-3-7 Mon-Tue 3-4:30-7-9:30 Wed 3-3:30-7-9:30

Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12-4-8 Mon-Thu 4-8

John Wick (14A) Fri 10:15 Sat-Sun 10:40-10:15 Mon-Wed 10:15

Kill Dil (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-5-9:10 Mon-Thu 5-9:10

Nightcrawler (14A) Fri 1:50-4:45-7:25 Sat 4:45-7:25 Sun 1:50-4:45-7:25 Mon-Wed 4:45-7:25 Thu 4

Shakespeare's Globe on Screen: Twelfth Night (STC) Sat 11

St. Vincent (PG) Fri 1:20-4:50-7:40-10:10 Sat-Sun 10:30-1:20-4:50-7:40-10:10 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:40-10:10 Thu 4:50

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Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:15-10

The Book of Life (G) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:10

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:30-10:15 Wed 1

Fury (14A) Fri 12-3:20-6:30-9:50 Sat 3:20-6:30-9:50 Sun-Tue 12-3:20-6:30-9:50 Wed 12-3:20-6:30 Thu 12-3:20-6:30-9:50 Wed 9:50

Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:45-8:15

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Thu 8:30-9 Thu 8

Interstellar (PG) Fri-Tue 12-4-8 Wed 12:15-3:45-4:30-7:45-8:30 Thu 11:45-12:15-3:45-4:30-7:45-8:30 Fri 11:45-12:15-3:45-4:30-7:45-8:30 Sat 8:30 Sun-Tue 11:45-12:15-3:45-4:30-7:45-8:30 Wed 12-9:45 Thu 12-4 Sat 11:45-12:15-3:45-4:30-7:45 Thu 2

John Wick (14A) Fri-Tue 6:20-9:30 Wed 6:45-9:20

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The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared (14A) Sat 1:10-3:20-7:10 Sun 9:20 Mon-Wed 7:10-9:20

Calgary European Film Festival (STC) Fri-Sun

Calgary Justice Film Festival (STC) Tue-Thu 12:10

The Overnighters (STC) Thu 7

The Story of Luke (STC) Thu 6:30

A Thousand Times Goodnight (PG) Fri 7-9:10 Sat 9:10 Sun 1-3:10-7-9:10 Mon-Wed 7-9:10

Scotiabank Chinook 6455 MacLeod Trail

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45-5:15-7:30 Mon 12:45-3-5:15 Tue 12:45-3-5:15-7:30 Wed-Thu 12:45-3-5:15

Before I Go to Sleep (14A) Fri-Thu 10

Big Hero 6 (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Mon-Tue 12:15-3:15-7:35-10:15 No Passes Wed 7:35 No Passes Thu 7:40-10:15 No Passes Wed 12:15-3:15-10:15 No Passes Thu 12:15-3:15

Big Hero 6 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7-9:45

Bolshoi Ballet: The Pharaoh's Daughter - Encore (STC) Thu 7

The Book of Life (G) Fri-Thu 12:20

The Book of Life 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:55-5:20

Dracula Untold (14A) Fri 1:40-4:20-7:05-9:50 Sat-Sun 4:20-7:05-9:50 Mon 1:40-4:20 Tue 1:40-4:20-6:55-9:50 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:20

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-12:10-2:10-2:50-4:50-5:25-7:30-8:05-10:10-10:45 No Passes Mon 12-1-2:40-3:55-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:35 No Passes Tue-Wed 12-1-2:40-3:55-5:15-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:30 No Passes Thu 12-2:40-3:55-5:15-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1

Fury (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:55-7:10-10:50 Mon-Thu 1-4:05-7:15-10:20

Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:35-7-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:50-7:10-10:25

Gone With the Wind (STC) Mon 6:30

Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15

Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:10-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:05-9:55

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Sat 11

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Thu 10:15-10:30 No Passes Thu 8-10:45

Interstellar (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-5-9 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:15-6:55-10:30 No Passes Fri 3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 11:50-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon-Wed 12:30-4:25-8:15 No Passes Thu 12-3:30

Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:15-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 2-5:30-9

John Wick (14A) Fri-Sun 12:25-3-5:30-8:05-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:30-3-7:20-10:10

The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Tue 7:40-10:25 Wed 10:25

The Metropolitan Opera: Macbeth (STC) Sat 9:55

Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Sun 1:55-4:50-7:40-10:30 Mon-Wed 1:55-4:45-7:40-10:20 Thu 4:45-7:40-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

Ouija (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:35 Mon-Wed 1:30-4-7:30-10:05 Thu 1:30-4-7:30

St. Vincent (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:50-5:25-7:55-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:20-7-10:055

Plaza Theatre 1133 Kensington Rd. N.W.

Awake: The Life of Yogananda (G) Fri 7 Sat 1-3-5-7 Sun 9 Mon 7-9 Tue 9:15

Big Hero 6. CONTRIBUTED

No Films Showing Today (STC) Wed-Thu

Sunridge Spectrum 2555 32nd Street

Baaz (STC) Fri 12:15-3:30-6:45-10 Sat 3:30-6:45-10 Sun-Wed 1:45-4:55-8:30 Thu 1:45-4:55-9

Big Hero 6 (G) No Passes Fri 2:25-5:05-7:45-10:25 No Passes Sat 11:30-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:25 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:15-4-6:50-9:30

Big Hero 6 3D (G) No Passes Fri 1:40-4:20-7-9:45 No Passes Sat 11-1:40-4:20-7-9:45 No Passes Sun-Wed 1:50-4:35-7:20-10 No Passes Thu 1:50-4:35-7:30-10:15

The Book of Life (G) Fri 12:45 Sun-Thu 12:55

Chaar Sahibzaade (PG) Fri 12-7:10 Sat 7:10 Sun-Thu 2:10-6

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Sun-Tue 1:30-4:15-7-10:05 No Passes Wed 4:15-7-10:05 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:15-7:10-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30

Edsa Woolworth (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:35-6:15-9:15 Sun-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:40-9:25

Fury (14A) Fri 12:15-3:20-6:25-9:40 Sat 3:20-6:25-9:40 Sun-Thu 3-6:30-9:35

Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Sat 3:15-6:55-10:15 Sun-Wed 3:20-6:45-10:10 Thu 3:20-10:20

Happy New Year (PG) Fri-Sat 3:05-10:10 Sun-Thu 9:10

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Sat 11

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Thu 10:10 No Passes Thu 8-10:50

Interstellar (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 2:10-3:25-6-7:05-9:50-10:45 No Passes Sun-Tue 1-2:15-4:50-6:10-8:45-9:50 No Passes Wed 2:15-4:50-6:10-8:45-9:50 No Passes Thu 1-2:15-4:50-8:45-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1

John Wick (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:15-6:50-9:30 Sun-Wed 1:35-4:20-7:40-10:15 Thu 1:10-3:40-6:15

Kill Dil (PG) Fri-Sat 3:10-6:30-9:55 Sun-Wed 3:10-6:25-9:40 Thu 3:10-6:25-9:45

Ouija (14A) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:50-7:40-10:20 Sun-Wed 2-4:40-7:35-9:55 Thu 2-4:40-7:35

Tusk (14A) Fri-Sat 2:45-5:25-7:55-10:30 Sun-Wed 1:20-3:55-7:15-9:45 Thu 1:20-3:55-7:20-10

Westhills 10 165 Stewart Green

Big Hero 6 (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 5-8

Big Hero 6 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-7:15-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:55-6:30-9:10

The Book of Life (G) Fri-Sun 12:55 Mon-Thu 4

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:25-7:25-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9:25

Fury (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:45-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:45

Gone Girl (18A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:30-7:45 Mon-Thu 5:05-8:20

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Thu 8

Interstellar (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-4:15-8 No Passes Mon-Tue 4:50-8:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 4:10-4:50-7:50-8:30 No Passes Fri-Sun 2-5:45-9:30 No Passes Mon-Tue 4:10-7:50

John Wick (14A) Fri-Sun 4:10-7:20-10 Mon-Tue 6:35-9:05

Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:50

St. Vincent (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:40-9:20

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Sound Check

ALAN CROSS

3 songs for the weekend

A B-side from Bowie, a spot-the-celeb video from Die Antwoord and a band with more bass than Meghan Trainor

See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to listen to Alan's recommended songs this week.

'Tis a Pity She Was a Whore/ David Bowie

This is the B-side to Sue(Or in a Season of Crime), which will come with next week's release of Nothing Has Changed, a new retrospective of Bowie's 50-year career.

Ugly Boy/Die Antwoord

South Africa's most famous weirdo rappers have come up with this video for Ugly Boy from their Donker Mag album. Spot guest appearances by Jack Black, Flea, Marilyn Manson, Dita von Teese and apparently, Aphex Twin.

Entropy/ Extinction Level Event

A metal band with three bass players? Yep, it's all about that bass. Take that, Meghan Trainor.

Video game review

Name. Nintendo amiibo

For. Nintendo Wii U

Rated. Everyone

● ● ○ ○ ○

In trying to imitate the $2 billion success of the Skylander toy-connected games, Nintendo has converted their beloved characters into amiibo figures that can connect without a portal at a lower price and across several games you're likely to already own. To parents this must surely be the better deal, but for fans, the figures merely unlock an alternate version of a character already in the game. Lose the toy and you're not missing out. By following someone else's lead, Nintendo seems to have misplaced the creativity they're known for. **KRIS ABEL**

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Taylor Swift ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Lorde is the bestie for her Swifty retort to Diplo gag

Oh, Diplo. You should have known not to go after Taylor Swift. When the DJ/producer started a Kickstarter campaign to Get Taylor Swift a Booty, Swift's BFF Lorde came to her rescue in full force. "Taylor Swift Still Needs Your Help," the campaign page reads. "Any true supporter of TSWIFT would definitely not pass up this opportunity to improve her posterior! THIS is not a joke!" (Obviously it's a joke.)

The fact that Diplo happens to be dating Swift enemy Katy Perry takes this from a prank to some song-writing-worthy drama. While Swift may not have fired back, that didn't stop Lorde, who tweeted at Diplo, "Should we do something about your tiny penis while we're at it?"

Fraida not, Dumb and Dumber To: JLaw nixes flashback cameo

Jennifer Lawrence

This was probably for the best, really. Despite being a professed fan of the first film, Jennifer Lawrence reportedly had second thoughts about her planned cameo appearance in Dumb and Dumber To — playing a younger version of Kathleen Turner's character, Fraida Felcher, in a flashback.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, Lawrence happily filmed the cameo last fall but retained the right to nix it from the film's final cut if she didn't like it, and she apparently exercised that right. Sound judgment.

The Word

Achtung baby, there's U2 debris in those German trees

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Somewhere in a forest in Germany, a couple of suitcases from U2's private jet are just waiting for you to find them.

Bono and four friends were flying the band's Learjet 60 from Dublin to Berlin earlier this week when the rear door of the luggage compartment fell off and dropped 15,000 feet to the ground, along with two pieces of luggage.

While the pilots told investigators they felt a turbulence-like rumble, the crew and passengers didn't realize what had happened until they landed. "The aircraft and its rear door are painted black, so the search in the wooded area will be difficult," a spokesman for the German Federal Bureau of Aircraft Accident Investigation says.

All I'm saying is that somewhere in Germany, there's a hiker suddenly looking to shift 150 pairs of sunglasses on eBay.

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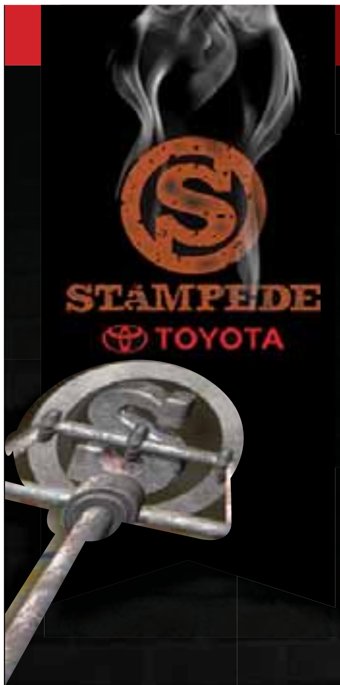
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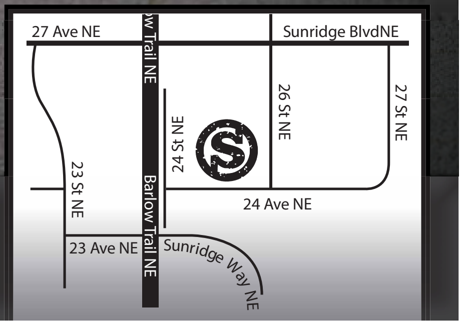
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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Are you game?

This recipe serves six. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Pappardelle with Braised Rabbit. This pasta dish is off the beaten culinary path in more ways than one

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

If braising isn't in your cooking repertoire, it's time to add it — stat! This technique, which involves searing a piece of meat and letting it cook slowly in some stock and aromatics, delivers big flavour for a minimum amount of effort.

You will fall in love with this creamy pasta recipe. The rich sauce with braised rabbit is off the beaten path, since it doesn't include tomatoes.

Ragù

1. In a large saucepan or deep skillet over medium high heat, brown the rabbit in the butter. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside on a plate.

2. In the same saucepan, soften the carrots, onion and garlic. Sprinkle with the flour and cook while stirring for about 1 minute. Add the wine and bring to a boil, stirring constantly.

3. Add the broth, bay leaf and rabbit pieces. Bring to a boil, cover, and simmer over medium-low heat, for about 1 hour and 30 minutes. Remove the rabbit and bay leaf. Debone the meat and return it to the sauce. Adjust the seasoning.

Pasta

1. Meanwhile, in large pot of salted boiling water, cook the pasta al dente. Drain and oil lightly if they have to rest aside.

2. Add pasta and herbs to pan with the rabbit sauce. Stir to combine and warm through. Stir in cheese and adjust the seasoning. **FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED THIS SEPTEMBER!**

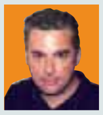
Ingredients

Ragù
- 1 rabbit, cut into 5 or 6 pieces (or 4 rabbit legs)
- 1/4 cup (55 g) butter
- Salt and pepper
- 3 carrots, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch (1/2 cm) small cubes
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) white wine
- 4 cups (1 litre) chicken broth
- 1 bay leaf

Pasta
- 3/4 lb (340 g) pappardelle
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley
- 1 tsp chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 tsp chopped fresh thyme
- 1/2 cup (50 g) grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

Liquid Assets

Wild pairing indeed



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Growing up in Nova Scotia, I saw my fair share of rabbits in the wild, and sometimes even in my own backyard.

I was more into feeding them than eating them; though my grandfather was prone to springing one on me as an entrée during fishing trips we'd take together when I was a kid.

I've had rabbit since, but never featured on a bed of pappardelle à la Ricardo this week.

On its own, rabbit prefers a red. Its light, gamey flavour works well with wines made from Malbec, Shiraz and Pinot Noir.

In Ricardo's recipe the creamy sauce calls for a white liquid partner. A subtly oaked Chardonnay is a good choice, as is an Italian from Soave or a Pinot Grigio.

A white from France's Rhône region is an inspired alternative. M. Chapoutier's 2012 Belleruche Côtes-du-Rhône Blanc ($16.61 to $19.99) has a base of Grenache blanc that gives it bright aromatics and a full, round flavour that will appease both the protein and pasta dressing. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

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FIND A CAUSE CLOSE TO SOMEONE'S HEART

Soon — whether we're into it or not — we'll be in the thick of the holiday shopping frenzy. Throngs of shoppers will descend on malls, parking spots will be in short supply, and checkout lines will be the longest of the year. Not surprisingly, after a few hours in the stores, some of us will start resembling the walking dead. Then, there's the challenge of finding that perfect gift for that one person who has everything.

If you are looking for a great idea for relatives or friends who already own it all, consider a charitable gift or donation in his or her name. With so many choices out there, you're sure to find a cause that's close to someone's heart or a charitable organization that reflects the gift recipient's passion or values.

Research says people like to give and receive gifts that help those in need.

And the numbers prove it. According to a poll conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of World Vision, four in five Canadians prefer to give a gift that helps someone in need, and 63 per cent prefer to receive one.

The good news is that charitable gift giving in Canada has never been easier. Here are just a few sites worth visiting this holiday season.

World Vision Canada: Goats and chickens and pigs, oh my!

Through a World Vision charitable donation, you can help a child have a better future. For just about a dollar a day, you can help provide things like access to education, health care and clean, safe drinking water. Giving a meaningful gift from World Vision's unique gift catalogue is a wonderful way to get, and share, in the spirit of the season. What are the best-selling gifts? Two hens and a rooster ($50) and goats ($100) are always gifts that people love to give out, but group gifting of water wells and stocking medical clinics are gaining popularity as well. Find a wide range of meaningful, life-changing gifts for the holidays at worldvision.ca/gifts.

CanadaHelps.org: An online portal with thousands of choices

If you're not sure which charity would be most meaningful to your friend or family member, consider a gift card from CanadaHelps. An online portal to thousands of some 80,000 registered Canadian charities, CanadaHelps offers gift cards that let the recipient choose where to give. All you have to do is visit canadahelps.org/GiftCards, browse by charity or by category (eg., social services, environment, arts and culture, animals, international), pick an amount and provide details on where the card is going. Your gift recipient will receive an email notification, complete with instructions on how to spend it on a charity, and you'll receive a tax receipt for your donation.

CONTRIBUTED

ECO-FRIENDLY WRAPPING

If you are planning to do some gift wrapping this year, consider these eco-conscious suggestions:

- Fabric (try fabric remnants, scarves, and table napkins)
- Jars (save your spaghetti sauce and Mason jars)
- Reusable gift bags (use them over and over again)

Your gift can help give a blind person their vision

A Nepali couple came to a Seva Canada eye camp near the town of Arghakhanchi, Nepal in springtime last year. The husband, Ram Bahadur, was blind.

Many years ago, he had lost his left eye in an accident while breaking rocks to make concrete.

It became infected and, though he went to traditional healers, he did not seek help from eye specialists. He was too poor to travel the 2-3 days it would take to get to a hospital or to pay for the eye care.

Eventually the infection worsened and he lost the eye. Then a cataract in his right eye robbed him entirely of his vision.

His wife had cared for him faithfully ever since the accident, leading him by the hand, guiding him to his food, taking him to the washroom and looking after all of his needs. She brought him to the camp in the hope of restoring his sight. You could see in her face the heavy burden she carried.

Ram received cataract surgery. Afterward he was carried to his friend's home to spend the night, waiting and hoping for a new life.

The moment the eye patch was taken off he was able to see his wife's face. While his was a quiet happiness, she was clearly thrilled. Her ecstatic smile showed how relieved and happy she was that both of them had regained their independence and dignity. She told us that she was so pleased that she would not have to lead him everywhere including to the washroom.

When you give one person back their sight, you give at least two people back their lives. Most of the world's 39 million blind live in the developing world, and could have their sight restored if care was brought to them. A 15-minute cataract surgery costing just $50 can transform a life forever. This holiday season, help a blind person see. Visit seva.ca for more information.

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Joseph gets the nod for Riders in semi

CFL. With Durant still ‘a week away,’ Saskatchewan will start 41-year-old on Sunday in Edmonton

Kerry Joseph of the Saskatchewan Roughriders tries to avoid the tackle of the Esks’ Marcell Young last Saturday at Mosaic Stadium. Joseph led the Riders to a 24-17 win last week and will start in Sunday’s West Division semifinal at Commonwealth Stadium. BRENT JUST/GETTY IMAGES

For the first time since the 2007 season, Darian Durant will not lead the Saskatchewan Roughriders into the CFL playoffs.

Kerry Joseph will get the start at quarterback Sunday when the Saskatchewan Roughriders visit the Edmonton Eskimos in the West Division semifinal.

On Thursday, head coach Corey Chamblin said Durant’s surgically repaired right elbow isn’t quite back to full strength, which is why he decided on Joseph as his starter.

“(Durant) is a step away from being the starter, definitely,” Chamblin said. “Whether he’s two or three (on the depth chart), that hasn’t been determined.

“I still think he’s about a week away from him being back to 100 per cent old Darian.”

Durant missed eight regular-season games after having surgery on a torn tendon in his right elbow in early September. The Riders went 2-6 in Durant’s absence after starting the year by posting an 8-2 record through the first 10 games of the season.

Don’t expect Darian

> “We won’t do packages or things like that. Hopefully Kerry is able to finish the game.”
>
> **Roughriders coach Corey Chamblin.** Darian Durant is expected to dress for Sunday’s game in Edmonton, but Chamblin isn’t keen on using him in special situations.

Joseph had started the previous three regular-season contests for the Riders, two of which were against the Eskimos. Joseph’s most recent start was a week ago at home against Edmonton, a game the Riders won 24-17. It was the lone victory for Saskatchewan in Joseph’s three starts.

The 41-year-old Joseph ended his retirement in mid-October and signed with the Riders. He last played for Saskatchewan in ’07 when he piloted the team to a Grey Cup championship. Chamblin said that veteran experience goes a long way at this time of year.

“He has the experience as far as championships and things like that,” Chamblin said. “We knew that we could possibly count on him if it got to this.”

Durant was the third-string quarterback for the Riders in the ’07 season. Joseph was traded to the Toronto Argonauts the following year and Durant eventually became the full-time starter under centre.

Joseph and Durant are close friends and the two regularly share ideas and strategy at practice and in the film room.

Joseph said he loves having that veteran presence beside him.

“It’s good. I didn’t play a lot of football this year, so sitting in the meeting rooms, when we get a look on film for instance, (Wednesday) morning Darian was telling me, ‘Think about this here. There’s something that you can do within this offence.’ That’s just a little reminder that I didn’t get during training camp or in Week 3 or Week 4 that he gives me.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

West semifinal pick

Riders at Eskimos, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.

There would be no time like the present for QB Matt Nichols to get his first CFL win.

He’ll take control of a potent Esks offence that led the CFL in yards (363.8 per game) and was second in scoring (27.3 points).

Edmonton’s rush “D” is important because the Riders are No. 3 in the CFL on the ground (132.2 yards per game). The Riders turn to Kerry Joseph with Darian Durant not ready to return.

With both teams having quarterback issues, this could easily become a close defensive battle. In that case, a slight edge to the home team.

Pick — Edmonton.

East semifinal pick

Lions at Alouettes, Sunday, 11 a.m.

Montreal was 6-3 at home but 3-7 versus West teams. However, the Als aren’t a dome team travelling across the country to play outdoors in November.

Kevin Glenn is expected to start for the Lions, but incumbent Travis Lulay is desperately trying to get ready for Sunday.

Weather could be a huge factor and if passing becomes difficult, it hurts B.C. more than Montreal. Both defences are solid but the Als hold a slight edge.

Pick — Montreal.

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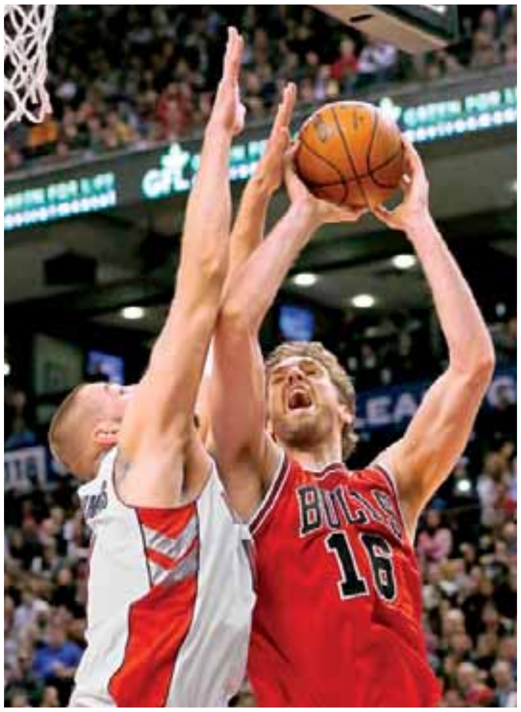

Raptors see red vs. Bulls

Raptors centre Joans Valanciunas plays defence against the Bulls' Pau Gasol on Thursday night in Toronto. Gasol scored a game-high 27 points and added 11 rebounds in the Bulls' 100-93 win.
RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bisons in Dinos' way for another Hardy Cup

University football. Manitoba and Calgary square off in one of three CIS regional finals Saturday

One team had a near-perfect season, the other played .500 football, but the outcome of Saturday's Hardy Cup game is far from an easy call as the Canada West-leading Calgary Dinos face the University of Manitoba Bisons.

It's one of three CIS regional championships Saturday.

In the others, the Montreal Carabins face Laval Rouge et Or for the RSEQ Dunsmore Cup and the Guelph Gryphons and McMaster Marauders square off for the OUA Yates Cup. In Atlantic Canada, the Mount Allison Mounties have already claimed the AUS Loney Bowl.

The Bisons, at 4-4 this season, would seem long odds against the Dinos, who finished at 6-2 but were really 7-1 on the field. They had to forfeit their first game, a 71-3 rout of Alberta, due to ineligible players.

But that one loss Calgary suffered was their last game of the season at the hands of the Bisons (who won 50-31 at home to split their two-game series) and Manitoba head coach Brian Dobie said they don't feel like underdogs.

"It's always nice to be able to play the underdog card and us against the world and the little engine that could," he said. "Not now."

Even in their first game in September, Manitoba was tough to handle, as the Dinos squeaked by 42-41.

Dobie said Calgary is still the team to beat in the West but the Bisons are going in with a little confidence.

"Absolutely respecting Calgary, but knowing that we're a real good football team, too," he said.

Dinos coach Blake Nill isn't taking anything for granted, either, and said he knew the Bisons were good when polled before the season.

"The Bisons were my choice as the team to ... finish atop Canada West," he said.

What kept that from happening was an abysmal record on the road. The Bisons couldn't lose at home and couldn't win, not even once, any place else during the regular season.

"I won't even call it a road jinx, I don't know what I'd call it," said Dobie, who snapped the unnameable skid with a 47-39 come-from-behind win over the Huskies in Saskatoon to get to this final.

He has to hope the magic lingers when they visit Calgary on Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We approach the running of the program with a certain philosophical point of view, we recruit with that point of view and the kids come into the program with that in front of them."

Dinos coach Blake Nill on how the team has built a dynasty in Canada West with six straight Hardy Cup victories

Beyond this weekend

The CIS semifinals are set for Nov. 22 and the Vanier Cup will be played Nov. 29 in Montreal.

CFL

Elimimian, Ray named finalists for MOP award

A record-breaking season has earned Solomon Elimimian a rare nomination.

The B.C. Lions linebacker was named the West Division finalist for the CFL's outstanding player award Thursday after registering a league-record 143 tackles. The six-foot, 227-pound Elimimian became the first pure defensive player in over 20 years named a conference nominee for the league's top individual honour.

"It's a great honour and I'd be remiss if I didn't appreciate my teammates and thank them for all they've done and how they've motivated me to be the best player I could be," Elimimian said.

Toronto Argonauts quarterback Ricky Ray was named the East Division's outstanding player for a second straight year. Ray led the CFL in passing yards (4,595), TDs (28), completion percentage (68.5 per cent) and completions (425).
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Connor McDavid. Crosby empathizes with injured junior-hockey prospect

Sidney Crosby didn't see the fight that caused Connor McDavid to break a bone in his hand. Still, the NHL superstar understands what it's like to get picked on as a junior-hockey prospect.

"I'm sure he's got a target on his back," Crosby said Thursday. "It's not easy sometimes. It's one of those flukey things. But no matter how many times you've done it, even if you talk to guys who have fought for years, anything can happen in a fight and you really do have to be careful."

McDavid is out five to six weeks with a fracture of the fifth metacarpal bone in his right hand as a result of hitting the top of the boards during a fight Tuesday night with Mississauga's Bryson Cianfrone.

Connor McDavid
ERIE TIMES-NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Though Erie Otters owner and general manager Sherry Bassin said he's "confident" his captain will be able to play for Canada at the world junior championship, the six-week time frame makes that a question mark.

"I think you just try to kind of take care of the present instead of thinking about too much down the road," Crosby said. "It's easier said than done sometimes."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Making his points

51

McDavid leads the OHL with 51 points on 16 goals and 35 assists in just 18 games this season. That's a pace that would have gotten him past Crosby's 168-point total in his second season in the QMJHL.

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Double honour for Kershaw

MLB. Dodgers lefty named NL MVP one day after winning Cy Young; Angels' Trout named top player in AL

Clayton Kershaw GETTY IMAGES

Clayton Kershaw became the first pitcher to win the National League MVP award in nearly a half-century, coasting to an easy victory Thursday.

Mike Trout was a unanimous pick for the AL honour after finishing second the previous two years. The 23-year-old outfielder became the fifth-youngest MVP in major-league history and the youngest unanimous selection. Kershaw, the Los Angeles Dodgers ace, breezed past Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton and Pittsburgh outfielder Andrew McCutchen for the NL award.

Bob Gibson in 1968 was the previous pitcher to be the NL MVP. Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander won the AL MVP in 2011. "To have people think you mean that much to your team, it really is a huge honour," Kershaw said on the MLB Network telecast.

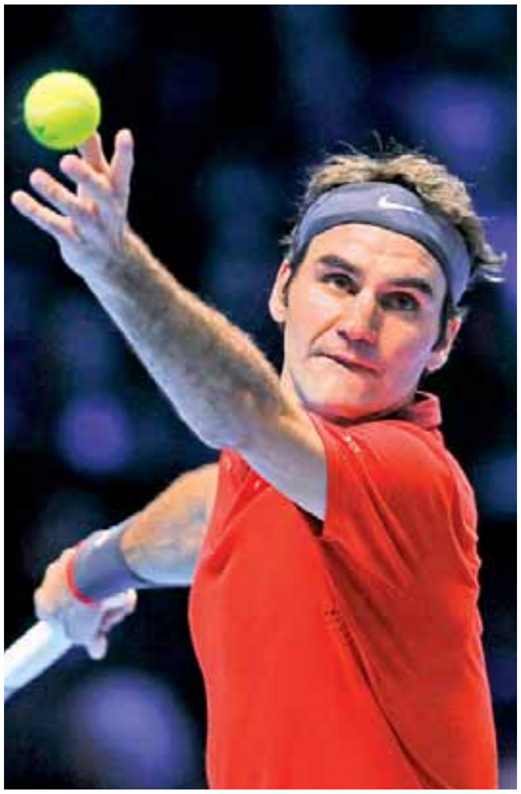
Impressive stats

In his third full season, Mike Trout hit .287 and set career highs in home runs (36) and RBIs (111). He led the major league in runs with 115 and extra-base hits with 84.

The 26-year-old lefty's numbers dominated hitters. Kershaw led the majors in wins and ERA while going 21-3 with a 1.77 ERA and throwing a no-hitter for the NL West champions. Kershaw got 18 of 30 first-place votes and 355 points in balloting.

Meanwhile, Trout received all 30 first-place votes and 420 points. Detroit designated hitter Victor Martinez was second with 229 points and Cleveland outfielder Michael Brantley third with 185.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fed Express flattens Murray

Switzerland's Roger Federer serves to Britain's Andy Murray during their singles ATP Finals match at the O2 arena in London on Thursday. Federer blew away Murray 6-0, 6-1 to finish the round-robin unbeaten, and hand Murray his worst defeat in seven years in front of his home crowd. KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

FIFA can't shake World Cup scandal

Just when you thought the turmoil surrounding FIFA couldn't get any more tangled, a new twist arrives to stir things up even more.

If the leaders of soccer's scandal-scarred world governing body thought Thursday's report into the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding process would put to rest any suspicions of corruption, they should think again. Winning host nations Russia and Qatar got what they hoped for when the report from FIFA's ethics judge Joachim Eckert largely cleared their bids, but the saga is not over.

Yes, German judge Eckert said some wrongdoing was committed by several candidates. But no, the integrity of the December 2010 votes was not affected. FIFA, which released Eckert's report, said "a degree of closure has been reached." Not so fast. Michael Garcia, the former American prosecutor who carried out the investigation acted on by Eckert, struck back against "materially incomplete and erroneous representations of the facts and conclusions" in his work. Garcia intends to appeal. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Don't let self-doubt creep into your mind. If a certain course of action was right before, it is still right. There is nothing wrong with what you are doing but your attitude could be better.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You need something to take your mind off your problems. Better still, you need to reorder your mind so you can see they are not really problems at all.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Try not to exaggerate your troubles today, because with the Sun at odds with Jupiter, planet of expansion, things could easily get out of control.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you approach a work or relationship problem from a predictable angle then you will get a predictable answer. But if you creep up on it you may discover something you had not noticed before — that it's not really a problem at all.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A financial matter must be left to run its course. You could've done more to influence the outcome but it's too late now.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may be able to see where loved ones are going wrong but unless they specifically ask for your assistance you are advised to keep your distance.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
What you are given today may not be what you wanted but if you accept it in the right spirit it will lead to something better.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Every turn you take seems to lead further away from what you are aiming for. Could it be that your subconscious mind is trying to warn you that what you're aiming for isn't desirable?

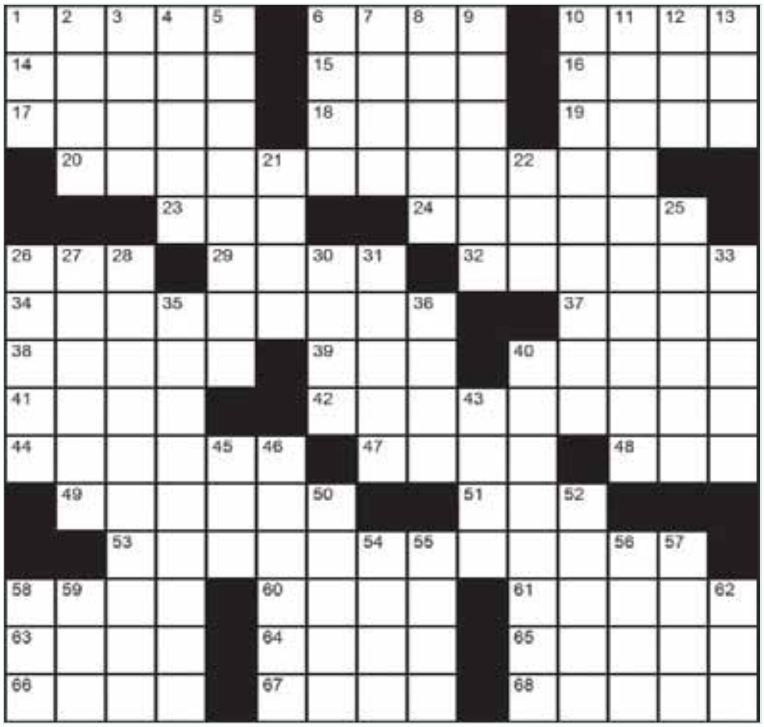
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Something will challenge your established opinions today and you could even find yourself agreeing with ideas and theories you once dismissed.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You have a tendency to work harder than most people but with the Sun at odds with Jupiter today you could go too far and exhaust yourself.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be inclined to throw caution to the wind and take a gamble but the planets indicate it could go wrong. You don't have to take risks to get what you need — just stick to your present course.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If a friend proposes something out of the ordinary it might be wise to hold back from getting involved. This is one of those occasions when what seems like a great idea turns out not to be.

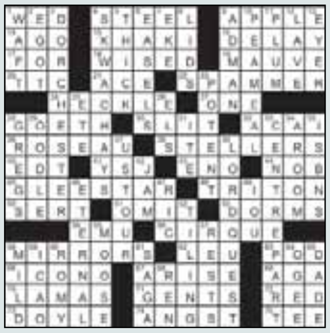
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Liver or kidney
6. Tree-to-apple attachment
10. Bag brand
14. Steal, archaically
15. Cover
16. "The Golden Girls" role
17. Beneath
18. Segment
19. Repeat
20. 1998 to 2003 series for Canadian actor Joshua Jackson: 2 wds.
23. "__ Kids" (2001)
24. Huge amounts
26. Guitarist's prop
29. 'Ballad' suffixes
32. Got totally ticked off: 2 wds.
34. Cape Breton Island set movie starring British actress Helena Bonham Carter, "__ Museum" (1995)
37. Heraldic border
38. 2009 Whitney Houston album: '_ __ to You'
39. Canuck motorists org.
40. Displayed displeasure
41. De __ (Again, in Latin)
42. Not cooked enough
44. Antsy: 2 wds.
47. "Breakadawn" by __ __ Soul
48. Beatles' "Maggie __"
49. Full
51. 'Hotel' suffix
53. Giant sweet baked treats which #40-Down is famous for: 2 wds.
58. Mr. Emanuel (Former White House Chief of Staff who is Chicago's current mayor)
60. Without change: 2 wds.
61. __-__-over
63. __ Wyck (1941 book by Victoria artist Emily Carr)
64. Jules Verne's Captain
65. Give back borrowed money
66. Rowing implements
67. Islands: French
68. Some tides

Down
1. Sphere
2. Marsh plant
3. Apple variety
4. Declares
5. Language in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four
6. Banish
7. Cans
8. Order
9. Montreal subways
10. Canadian actor Bruce
11. Sports stadium spot: 2 wds.
12. Bonfire leftover
13. God willing, __ volente
21. __ and terminer
22. Bambi's aunt
25. Actress/singer Ms. Gomez
26. __ acid
27. "Cheers" bartender Sam
28. __ Bridge (Spanning the Red River, it links St. Boniface to downtown Winnipeg)
30. Receipt: French
31. Support sort
33. Actress sister of Michelle Pfeiffer
35. Tom Cochrane & Red Rider song: 2 wds.
36. Single-named songstress
40. Yukon: __ Lodge (An hour from Whitehorse, famous stop at Mile 55 on the Klondike Highway)
43. Tiger Woods' ex-wife
45. __ rummy
46. Verdi opera of 1844
50. Work-of-art displayer
52. Currency of India
54. Street performer
55. Bears: Spanish
56. Wine region of Calif.
57. Crack
58. Movie studio
59. Mobile's li'l state
62. Prefix to 'functional'

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

3		2			7			
				8		9		
6			9				1	
		8						6
	5			9			3	
9						8		
	6				2			8
		5		1				
			6			7		5

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Yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	5	9	7	1	4	2	8
4	9	7	2	3	8	6	5	1
1	8	2	6	5	4	3	9	7
7	6	4	3	8	5	9	1	2
2	5	8	1	9	6	7	3	4
9	1	3	4	2	7	5	8	6
5	4	9	8	6	2	1	7	3
8	7	6	5	1	3	2	4	9
3	2	1	7	4	9	8	6	5

GOD'S PROMISES WILL NOT FAIL
Some people missed the promises of God because of their impatience and the perception that God is slow. God is orderly, principled and knows the best time for you. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance".(2Peter 3:9NKJV). All His promises concerning you must surely come to pass in as much you still trust Him.
FOR PRAYERS AND COUNSELLING CALL THE PASTOR AT 403.992.8656.
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GERRY WOOD DEALER PRINCIPAL BIG 4 MOTORS
MARTIN VENNERI SALES MANAGER 8 YEARS
DARCY SCHINNOUR SALES MANAGER 18 YEARS
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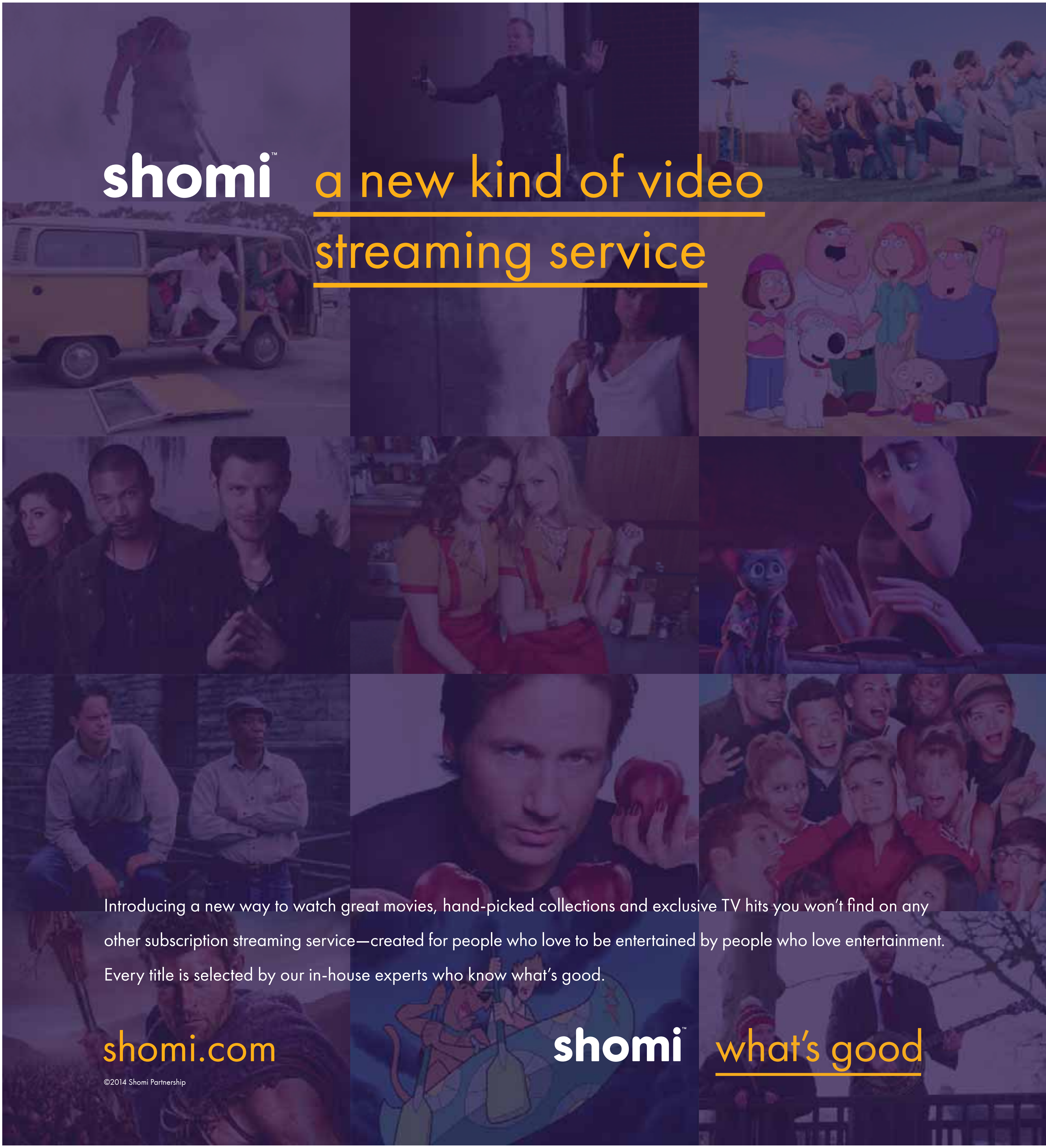

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